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ALSO INSIDE

LEISURE PAGES 18-27
PROPERTY PAGES 29-34
MOTORING PAGES 35-38
JOBS PAGES 39-43
SPORT PAGES 46-47

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Hundreds of spectators braved the chilly and wet weather to join in the countdown to the Maidstone Christmas lights switch-on.

Shoppers enjoyed the avant-garde entertainment on Sunday before the stars of the Hazlitt's panto, Jack and the Beanstalk, helped turn on the festive lights at 5pm.

Town centre manager Bill Moss said: "The thing about our Christmas light switch-on is it is different from other towns. We don't have the traditional Santa, instead this year we had a life-like polar bear, a singing nun act and astronauts. The polar bear really pulled the crowds in, the children loved it and the adults kept asking if it was real or not."

The switch-on incorporated the Heart of Kent Hospice's Light Up A Life event where people lit candles to remember loved ones.

EXCLUSIVE

BY ANNA WHITE

BLACK taxi cabs in the county town have been given the green light to increase their fares next year – despite the recession gripping this country.

Councillors voted at a licensing meeting on Friday to allow the 48 Hackney Carriages in Maidstone to increase their prices for a running mile by about seven per cent in 2009.

This will mean after the standing charge of £2.60, which will run out after a shorter time, the fare will be £1.99 per mile, as opposed to £1.86 at present.

The main rank for black cabs is outside the Town Hall and the feeder is in King Street.

During normal hours a taxi from The Odeon cinema complex in Barker Road to the Chequers Centre in Lower Stone Street, which is a mile journey, will now cost £3.75 instead of £3.61.

From the taxi feeder in King Street to Maidstone Hospital, a 3.1-mile route, will now cost £7.73 instead of £7.33.

This inflation-busting hike comes at a time when petrol prices have dramatically fallen and with families struggling to cope with the economic meltdown.

The average price of a litre of unleaded petrol when the Maidstone Taxi Proprietors Association applied for the fare rise was 106.4 pence, which has now dropped to an average of 92.9 pence per litre.

Paul Coles, Maidstone Age Concern's chief officer, said: "It's disappointing to hear that taxi fares are increasing, particularly for elderly residents living in the borough."

"Those with disabilities can apply for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Reindeer prepare for Christmas on the farm. See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'reindeer'.



2 KOS Media's £1 million Business Challenge. See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'challenge'.



3 Our weekly round-up of the county's top football news. See web TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk and see the sports channel

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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'Store will make town the sex capital of Kent'

■ BY ANNA WHITE

A SEX shop chain will open its second store in the town centre after getting the green light from councillors.

The plan had attracted opposition from some residents who feared it would lower the image of Maidstone and make it "the sex capital of Kent".

But members of the council's licensing committee approved the planning application from the owner of adult gift store Pillow Talk for another branch in Bank Street at a meeting last Friday.

The applicant Alan Butler already has a Pillow Talk store in Upper Stone Street and several more in Kent, including in Chatham, Ashford and Margate.

The application was to use the former British Cross building in the town centre for a second sex shop.

The council received eight objections to the application, mainly because residents feel more sex stores could bring down the town's image. They described the shops as "sleazy".

One opponent, who wrote to the council, said the new shop would "make Maidstone begin to look like the sex capital of Kent".

Maidstone police did not object to the new store.



SEXY: Councillors have given the thumbs up for Pillow Talk to open another shop in Maidstone

Despite public perception of sex shops, Mr Butler stated in his application that Pillow Talk shops are clean, tidy, open plan, with discreet window and floor displays, and aim "to discourage the sleazier image of yesteryear."

He also brought to the committee's attention that since he gained his first licence in 1983, the stores have not experienced any trouble with police and no under-aged people have been found in any of the stores.

The committee approved the application on the grounds it must meet certain conditions.

These include opening hours of 9am to 8pm on Monday to Saturday, and 10am to 5pm on Sunday.

No persons under the age of 18 can enter the building, no prostitutes can use the premises for soliciting and the door must be covered up to avoid passers by seeing the inside.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

OAP on car damage and assault charges

A PENSIONER has been charged with nine counts of criminal damage and assaulting a police officer.

A Mid Kent police spokeswoman said Hazel O'Connor, 67, of Abingdon Road in Barming, has been bailed to appear at Maidstone Magistrates Court on December 16 for a remand hearing.

An investigation was launched after officers were called to a street in Maidstone on May 31 this year and found 11 cars had been scratched by a sharp implement.

USC starts festivities with discount offer

HIGH street retailer USC is offering customers the perfect incentive to start their Christmas shopping this week with a Mega Day 20 per cent discount tomorrow.

USC sells menswear, womenswear, accessories and footwear from popular fashion brands, including Diesel, Miss Sixty, French Connection, Lacoste, Henri Lloyd and Firetrap.

There is also plenty of Christmas present ideas in-store, such as Ted Baker gift sets.

The Fremlin Walk based store will be open from 9am to 9pm on Thursday.

Schools' showcase

THREE schools will open their doors next week to show what they have to offer to potential new students.

Maidstone Grammar School Sixth Form's open evening is on Monday, between 7.15pm and 9pm.

Teachers from New Line Learning's Sixth Form Centre in Linton will be on hand to talk about the courses next Wednesday, from 6.30pm.

Parents with children for reception year can visit West Malling C of E Primary School, also next Wednesday, between 10am and 11.30am.

The Boyes done good with thriller flick

FILMMAKER Derek Boyes has made it through to The Big Pitch final with his dark gritty thriller Blackout, set in a bleak area of Sheppey.

The Big Pitch, dubbed "the X-Factor of Film", is an innovative competitive training programme that attracted more than 200 applications from the UK's up-and-coming filmmakers.

Derek, from Maidstone, is one of four finalists in with a chance of the £250,000 top prize.

His film was described by the judges as "a relentless and increasingly fast-paced modern thriller,

flashing backwards and forwards in time, keeping the audience hooked right to the very end."

A spokesman for the competition said: "The story centres around Gary, a 21-year-old who wakes up in the middle of a wood next to the body of a brutally murdered local girl."

"Unable to remember anything, he attempts to flee the barren windswept island, only to discover the police are already looking for him."

"Trapped and confused, Gary is forced to cover up the evidence in a desperate attempt to buy time, recall

his fragmented memory and figure out what really happened."

The finalists will appear at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in Gateshead on Saturday December 6 with a final 15 minutes in which to sell their feature film.

A panel of industry experts will give their verdicts but it is up to the voting public to decide who wins the £250,000 prize.

The event, part of the Northern Lights Film Festival 2008, will be streamed live on www.the-big-pitch.com and people can vote online.

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Ann backs WI fight against sex adverts

■ BY ANNA WHITE

MAIDSTONE MP Ann Widdecombe has backed a call for Women's Institutes across Britain to complain about sex for sale adverts in newspapers.

Ms Widdecombe was speaking after Harriet Harman MP, the Minister for Women, urged WIs to

complain to editors of papers carrying the sleazy adverts.

Last night Ms Widdecombe said she believed it was right that people made their own complaints.

She told this newspaper: "I support what she is saying about tackling the sex adverts in local papers, as we have all seen them but are too dubious to say anything."

In her speech to the WI, Ms Harmann urged its 200,000 members to complain to the editors of these local papers.

It will mean special attention

being paid to anything that looks as though it is advertising foreign women as prostitutes.

A WI spokeswoman said the campaign could make a difference to the numbers of women, especially from Eastern Europe and parts of the Far East who are forced to work.

The WI had already indicated it is interested in helping the campaign against trafficking in this way.

Local newspapers that accept sex for sale ads are considered one of the biggest ways men are able to contact prostitutes.

Many of the women have no idea they will be forced to work in the sex trade once they arrive in Britain lured by the promise of well-paid work.

The WI says many of women, some in their early teens, have been tricked and abducted from their own country and forced to live and work in "dreadful conditions".

KOS Media, publisher of eight local and two regional newspapers has a policy of never accepting adverts for 'massage' or any service that could be of a sexual nature.

Hop Farm cancels Santa

FAMILIES will not be able to visit the Hop Farm Family Park during the Christmas season.

The Paddock Wood visitor attraction has announced it will shut for the festive period for "essential maintenance work".

The Hop Farm will close its doors on December 1 and will not reopen until February 7, while the work is carried out and new attractions are built.

The closure of the family park means the Santa's Grotto event has been cancelled, with bookings to be refunded.

Mr Bull added: "The tourist industry in Kent and the South East is very competitive, especially at Christmas time. We felt we shouldn't try and compete in this difficult economic climate and should focus on getting the park ready for spring."

'We need to increase the costs'

FROM FRONT PAGE

disability travel vouchers scheme that we run in partnership with Maidstone council. They can claim up to £35 worth of vouchers by calling us on 01622 753618."

Dennis Conyon, chairman of the Maidstone Taxi Proprietors Association, defended the hike.

He said: "Even if petrol prices have dropped, inflation is still high. We need to increase the costs to cover petrol, inflation and maintenance."

"Every one of our cars in Maidstone is wheelchair accessible and the vehicles cost almost double the price of all other local authority vehicles. A normal saloon car costs about £12,000 but ours costs near to £35,000."

"We are trying to look out for our disabled passengers and continue to keep running our service."

A council spokesman said: "The taxi trade has asked for a modest increase for 2009 to take account of increasing costs, such as the price of fuel."

"The committee considered the report and the change in fares was agreed because it was felt it reflects a year's change in running costs."

Robber jailed over knifepoint hold-ups at railway bridge

A YOUNG man who robbed two teenagers at knifepoint has been sentenced to 32 months in prison.

Wayne Plumb, 21, stole an iPod, mobile phone and wallet from an 18-year-old man after holding a knife in front of his stomach at Maidstone railway bridge on July 6.

The following day Plumb, formerly of Quarry Road, Maidstone, returned to the railway and carried out a similar attack on an 18-year-old woman, taking her phone and purse.

He pleaded guilty to both counts of robbery at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday last week and was jailed.

Detective Kelly Weekes, who was in charge of the investigation, said: "Crimes of this severity are thankfully so rare in Maidstone that a major investigation was very quickly mounted in this case."

"Large numbers of officers were called in to help and a variety of tactics were used. This quick response has culminated in removing Wayne Plumb from the streets for a considerable period of time."

"This case should serve not only as



GUILTY: Knife-wielding Wayne Plumb

a deterrent to criminals, but more importantly reassure the people of Maidstone that on the rare occasions we suffer crimes of this severity, we will act quickly and decisively to bring the offender to justice.

"I am grateful to the victims and witnesses in this case who provided compelling and overwhelming evidence."



FERRARI SMASH DRIVER IN A STABLE CONDITION

The driver of a Ferrari sports car seriously injured in a crash outside a golf course is now in a "stable" condition in hospital.

The man, who is not being named at the request of his family, was flown by air ambulance to the Royal London Hospital after the incident.

His Ferrari collided with another car by the entrance to the Weald of Kent Golf Course on the A229 near Headcorn at 8.45am on Friday.

The road was closed for several hours while the emergency services worked at the scene.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Familiar face returns to run borough police force

THE former borough commander for Maidstone police is returning to his role after a three year break.

Chief Inspector David Pascoe will replace Superintendent Ian Hall, who is taking a promotion to the tactical firearms unit at Coldharbour in Aylesford.

Ch Insp Pascoe has lived in Maidstone for the past 20 years and will bring 32 years experience in the police with him, which he says will help in running the operational policing in the county town.

Pole dancers celebrate grand success of hobby

ORGANISERS of a ten hour pole dancing challenge say they are on target to raise £1,000 for Children in Need.

Twenty ladies of all ages, shapes and sizes abandoned their day jobs to raise money for the charity at The Pole Secrets Studio in Maidstone on Friday, November 14.

From midday to 10pm the women took part in an extra long session of the fitness-focused adaptation of pole dancing.

So far more than £800 has been raised, with several sponsorship forms still outstanding.

Enjoy festive fun as the panto comes to town

FAMILIES will be getting in the festive spirit this weekend at the opening night of the Hazlitt's Jack and the Beanstalk.

The Hazlitt Arts Centre's Christmas panto kicks off on Saturday at the town centre venue.

Playing the lead role of Jack is Hollyoaks star Jake Hendriks, better known as Father Kieron Hobbs in the teen soap.

The show runs from Saturday until January 4. Tickets are available at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01622 758611.

Private health chief is invited to meet Queen

THE head of infection prevention and control at a private hospital in Maidstone has been recognised for her outstanding work by the Queen.

Sue Manning, who is based at Somerfield BMI Healthcare Hospital in London Road, was selected to meet Her Majesty at an evening reception at Buckingham Palace last Tuesday.

She said: "I was honoured to be invited to the reception at Buckingham Palace – it was an opportunity of a lifetime, and quite overwhelming to meet the Queen."

NHS trust boss to be offered double pay

BY JENNA PUDELEK

MAIDSTONE Hospital will pay twice the going rate to attract a new new boss following the superbug scandal.

A hefty £44,000 annual salary is on offer to the new chair of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

Former chairman, James Lee, resigned shortly after the damning Healthcare Commission report into two Clostridium difficile outbreaks at the organisation's hospitals.

At least 90 patients died in the superbug outbreaks in 2005-6.

In the report, published last October, the watchdog blamed management failings and poor infection control methods.

George Jenkins, the chair of East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust, is acting as interim chair, but there have now been two unsuccessful attempts to find a permanent replacement.

Salaries for chairs of acute hospital trusts are usually set by the Department of Health at between £18,164 and £23,020. But £44,000 is now on offer in an attempt to fill the post.

A spokeswoman for the Appointments Commission, which hires chairs and non-executive directors for NHS organisations, said: "There are cases when it has proved very difficult to recruit a chair to a trust which is facing particularly difficult challenges.

"Following representations by the Appointments Commission and the Strategic Health Authority, the Public Sector Pay Committee has now given the Secretary of State for Health leave to exercise discretion where there is strong evidence of the need for some flexibility in the remuneration paid."



Picture: KIP

MORE: Following the superbug scandal the new NHS Trust boss will be offered a larger salary than usual

Alan Johnson, the Health Secretary, has agreed to allow this flexibility in the salary of the new chair of the west Kent trust, she said.

The quality of the trust's services was rated 'weak' in the recent Healthcare Commission assessment.

However, the trust now has the lowest rates of C diff in the NHS South East Coast area, which is the Strategic Health Authority covering Kent, Sussex and Surrey.

The commission spokeswoman added: "This increased salary reflects the particular challenges MTW NHS Trust trust faces.

"This recruitment campaign has now closed. Interviews will be held in late November and we hope to announce an appointment in early-mid December."

A spokesman for the trust said it could not comment because the commission was responsible for appointments and the salary offered.



Leeds castle gets beautiful bridge

THE restoration of Leeds Castle's deteriorating moat bridge has been praised at a national awards ceremony.

The commendation was announced at the Stone Federation Great Britain 2008 award lunch, at Lord's cricket ground in London, on Friday.

The event was hosted by broadcaster Jim Rosenthal and the National Lottery's 'voice of the balls' Alan Dedicoat.

The historic moat bridge has two arches and a cobblestone

path, and it is the only entrance to the castle.

In 2004 staff at the Hollingbourne site noticed it was beginning to crumble into the moat. In-depth investigations by an architect and stone specialist revealed the deterioration of the coping stones; water was flowing through the top of the stonework and washing away its support.

Water also damaged the cobble road, by loosening the stone arches which could have

caused the west wall to collapse. Repairs were made and the opportunity taken to improve the drainage to the bridge and make it more weather resistant.

The works were commended in the repair and restoration section of the national awards competition.

The judges said: "The extent of the work undertaken on this bridge is not fully evident, which is an accolade for its restoration."

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PRESENTATION: Peter Carroll, third from left, joins Joanna Lumley and Gurkha representatives at 10 Downing Street

Gurkhas' appeal to stay in Britain delivered to PM

■ BY ANNA WHITE

LIBERAL Democrat-hopeful Peter Carroll joined TV star Joanna Lumley in taking the Justice for Gurkhas Campaign to Downing Street.

The parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and the Weald, who has helped run the campaign since 2003, walked with the actress and Coxheath councillor Brian Mortimer from Parliament Square to No 10 Downing Street.

The campaigners were joined by 100 people from a 2,500-strong crowd in presenting their petition for Gurkha Justice to Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Thursday.

In September the High Court ruled the current policy of denying Gurkhas who retired before 1997 the right to live in the UK was unlawful.

Mr Justice Blake indicated the Government should not take longer than three months to come up with a new policy.

Mr Carroll told Yourmaidstone: "Bearing in mind the Christmas period, the Government has only two to three weeks left of the three months to come up with a new policy."

"The aim of the march to No 10 was to put pressure on the Government to make a deci-

sion, and with a petition of about 240,000 signatures I think we certainly did.

"It was great to see how many people turned up, and so many were wearing Gurkha Justice T-shirts to show support."

After addressing the supporters at 1pm, Ms Lumley laid a wreath at the Cenotaph with Victoria Cross winners Hon Lt Tul Bahadur Pun and Hon Sgt Lachiman Gurung, to pay tribute to the 50,000 Gurkhas who have lost their lives fighting for Britain.

The actress, whose father served with the Sixth Gurkha Rifles, said: "We have received countless emotional and touching messages of support from all over the UK and the world. The people have spoken."

"However, there is a risk the Government will now come up with 'half measures' to try and get round the court's ruling."

"The people do not want this – they want all retired British Army Gurkhas to have the right to live in the country they were prepared to fight and die for. This is an historic opportunity for the Government to act decisively and to end this national shame."

The Queens Gurkha Engineers are based at Invicta Park Barracks in Maidstone.

The county town honoured their brave service last month by unveiling a tribute Gurkha soldier statue outside Maidstone Museum in St Faiths Street. The statue was funded by a public appeal.

yourmaidstone

NEWS IN BRIEF

Presenter denies any sympathy with BNP

A FREELANCE TalkSport presenter whose name was included on a leaked database of past and present BNP members has denied ever supporting the party.

Rod Lucas, 52, from Staplehurst, says he only joined the far-right group to help him with a story he was researching.

In a statement released through TalkSport, who drafted the former Radio Kent personality in to cover late-night shows earlier this year, Mr Lucas said the BNP was one of a number of organisations he joined.

The statement read: "Rod Lucas has told TalkSport that as a freelance journalist, he and three colleagues joined the BNP while researching a story. As well as joining the BNP, Rod also joined 22 other organisations including the Animal Liberation Front, the Communist Party, the Anti-Vivisection Movement, PDSA and Save the Panda."

"Rod Lucas would like to make it clear he does not and has never supported the BNP."

The list showed the BNP has 30 members in the area, the fourth highest number in Kent after Medway, Bromley and Bexley.

Burglars escape police in helicopter chase

A POLICE helicopter was used to help officers search the grounds of Mote Park for two burglars.

Two masked men broke into an office in Mote House at about 7pm on Thursday and stole a laptop before running off into the town centre park over a footbridge.

Police said after an extensive search they were unable to find the burglars, who are described as tall, white men wearing dark clothing and masks to cover their faces.

Anyone with information should contact police on 01622 690055 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Thief claimed reward

A 32-YEAR-old man who stole a pet dog and then claimed the £500 reward money has been found guilty of theft.

Magistrates convicted Nigel Nash, of Milton Street, Maidstone, at a hearing in the county town on Monday last week.

The court heard a witness saw him putting Sadie, the Cavalier King Charles spaniel, in the back of his Vauxhall Cavalier on March 4 outside a printing shop in St Andrew's Road, Maidstone.

He then returned the dog to its rightful owner two days later, but claimed the £500 reward.

Nash will be sentenced at a later date.

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Broadband TV lit up by film of Geri

A VIDEO clip of Geri Halliwell switching on Bluewater's Christmas lights on Yourkenttv has been a dazzling hit with viewers.

The footage of the former Spice Girl lighting up the shopping centre had attracted nearly 650 hits at the time of going to press. The clip also shows her reading extracts from her Ugenia Lavender series of children's novels as Bluewater's Winter Wonderland was kicked off on November 6.

The Winter Wonderland experience runs until January 3, with attractions including live performances, a Christmas market, and an ice rink.

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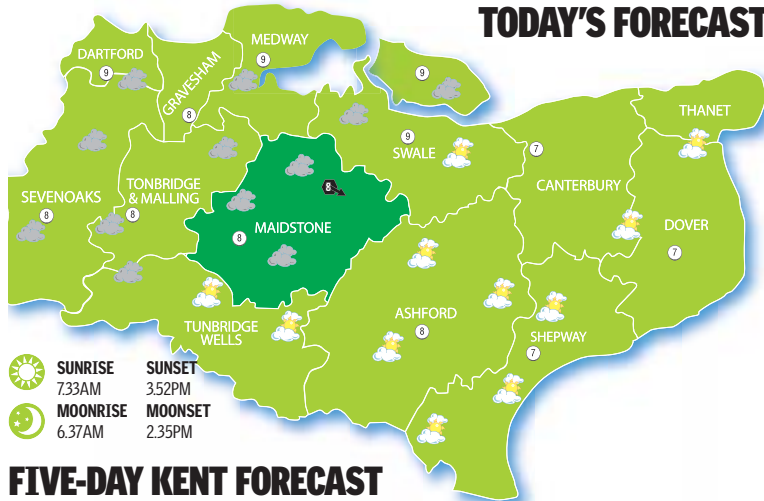
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MOONRISE 6:37AM
MOONSET 2:35PM

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	7°C	7°C	11°C	8°C	8°C	Gravesend	8°C	9°C	11°C	9°C	8°C
Canterbury	7°C	7°C	10°C	7°C	7°C	Maidstone	7°C	8°C	11°C	9°C	8°C
Chatham	7°C	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	Ramsgate	7°C	7°C	10°C	7°C	7°C
Dartford	8°C	9°C	11°C	9°C	8°C	Rochester	7°C	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C
Dover	7°C	6°C	10°C	7°C	7°C	Sevenoaks	6°C	7°C	9°C	7°C	7°C
Faversham	7°C	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	Sittingbourne	7°C	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C
Folkestone	7°C	6°C	10°C	7°C	7°C	Tonbridge	7°C	7°C	10°C	8°C	8°C
Gillingham	7°C	8°C	11°C	10°C	9°C	Tun Wells	7°C	7°C	10°C	8°C	8°C

WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	12:19pm	5.7m
	Sunday	12:56pm	5.8m
Dover	Saturday	10:36am	6.4m
	Sunday	11:14am	6.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:32am	7.4m
	Sunday	11:09am	7.4m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:06am	4.8m
	Sunday	11:44am	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:09pm	5.5m
	Sunday	12:46pm	5.5m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:20pm	5.1m
	Sunday	12:58pm	5.0m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	3°C	Madrid	12°C
Athens	13°C	New York	1°C
Barcelona	15°C	Paris	6°C
Beijing	9°C	Rome	14°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	18°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	7°C	Tokyo	11°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	8°C
Hong Kong	24°C	Warsaw	0°C
Las Palmas	20°C	Wellington	24°C



SELFLESS: Kevin Bush (second right) collects his award with other winners at the ninth Kent Volunteer Awards

Celebration of 'those who put others first'

A VOLUNTEER from Maidstone's Women Support Services was recognised for his dedication at a gala award ceremony on Sunday.

Kevin Bush won a £400 donation to an organisation of his choice, a pair of theatre tickets and a trophy at the ninth Kent Volunteers Awards for Volunteering Excellence.

Mr Bush was chosen as one of 44 winners in the event organised by Kent County Council at the Ramada Hotel in Hollingbourne, for recognition of his work at the service.

KCC chairman Peter Lake, who attended the ceremony as patron for the awards, said: "Volunteers are the backbone of everything we do in looking after the people of Kent."

"This event celebrated those who put others first and make a real difference to their local communities."

The winning organisations and individual volunteers were chosen from eight categories, sponsored by the public and private sector organisations.

The categories included arts, environment, welfare and disability, community support and development, voluntary work in education and schools, voluntary committee support and fund-raising, sport and the support of sport, and mentoring.



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- The Headmaster's main presentation for external students will be in the Big Hall at 7.30pm.
- Separate presentations on the IB, A Level and Diploma are scheduled at 7pm and 8.15pm during the evening.

For more information, or if you would like to visit us at other times, please telephone us on 01622 752101, or fax us on 01622 753680, or email school@mgs-kent.org.uk

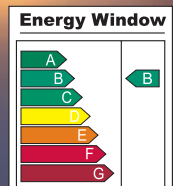
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QUESTION & ANSWER

CLAIRE WRIGHT



Q Tell us a little about yourself

A I am 30 and married with two sons. I was born in London but spent my childhood in Kent. I have travelled and worked around the world and I lived for a while in Australia.

Q How did you get into the pole dancing industry?

A In 2003, after having my first son, I became a housewife for the first time. I was looking for a way to get back in shape and came across a pole dance school and I thought I'd give it a go. After trying lessons I felt uncomfortable with the particular environment but realised it was a fantastic way to train and have fun.

Q Some people often have preconceptions pole dancing can be degrading for women, what is your opinion?

A I agree with them that a certain type of pole dancing can be degrading. What we do is completely different. Pole dance fitness combines a small dance element with strength training to create a new concept in fitness.

Q What is different about Pole Secrets?

A When I first learnt to pole dance I became aware of the need for high quality individually tailored tuition. I decided to combine my love of music, dance and performance to establish a training ground for women without the seedy connotations of unsavory environments. All of our tutors come from either a health and

fitness or dance background, we do not train in bars or clubs and we do not wear shoes.

Q What classes do you run?

A We run classes for complete beginners to seriously advanced levels. We have students who have been training with us for many years. We also run performance courses associated with assisting body confidence. Finally we have aerial strength training, utilising skills more frequently seen in the circus.

Q Tell us more about the fitness side of pole dancing

A This is also known as functional strength training. This is where you use your body weight to tone your entire body on the pole, particularly concentrating on the stomach, arms and thighs. Pole dancing burns about 400 calories per session, increases flexibility, and decreases the risks of heart disease and osteoporosis.

Q Tell us about the ten-hour pole session you organised for Children in Need?

A It was a fantastic experience. We had nearly 30 volunteers dancing in a ten hour relay at our flagship studio in Maidstone. These ladies were not only our own students but also people who wanted to try pole dancing and raise money for such a good cause, which was brilliant. The day was great fun with lots of people and businesses supporting us and helping to raise more than £1,000.

Q Are there any other charity events that you do?

A We have close links with Breast Cancer Awareness, in the summer we had a pole in Bromley to generate a crowd and collect donations. We are also holding a ladies night in MuMu's Maidstone on December 1, where we are showcasing the latest in fitness, designer fashion, lingerie, make up and beauty treatments. We will be collecting donations for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Q How do you juggle being a businesswoman and mother?

A I have to be highly organised. Any mother will tell you what a struggle it can be getting out of the door with two small children. I also make sure I have a healthy work/play balance, spending as much time as possible with my family. With the ever-increasing interest in Pole Secrets I won't deny I am a little tired.

Q Was running your own business something you always wanted to do?

A I have been self-employed for more than ten years. I think I was destined to work hard and always be a little worn out! But Pole Secrets has made it worth every second.

Q What advice would you give to a mother thinking of starting her own business?

A Go for it. There will be tears along the way but as long as it's something you believe in and is worthwhile, then it will be worth it.

The brains behind the Kent-based pole dancing school spoke to **Anna White** about its ethos, raising money for a variety of good causes and learning how to juggle her young family with her career.

Evening Brasserie Set Menu*

Starter

Chicken and Pesto Bites With Pesto Mayonnaise
and Rocket leaves on Toasted Crusty Bread
Chefs homemade Soup of the day
Tomato & Goats Cheese Grill Served on crusty bread
with 'Beef tomato, basil & Balsamic glaze
'Prawn & Crayfish Salad'
Prawns & Crayfish in a dressed salad with a hint of Garlic

Main Course

'Fish out of Batter
Poached cod loin with beer batter Crisps served with chips and Peas
Chicken and Bacon Melt
Chicken breast smothered with BBQ sauce topped with Crispy Bacon
and melted Cheese served with Chips and salad
Ham, Mushroom and Spinach Carbonara
Pasta coated with a cream & white wine sauce
Vegetable Bake
Roasted Vegetables topped with a mash potato with a cheese herb crust

Desserts

Classic Crème Brûlée
Strawberry Dream
Fresh strawberry's served with Vanilla Cream
Homemade Fruit Crumble
Served with cream or custard
Pancake Perfection
Served with sugar, lemon and Vanilla Ice cream

Two course - £9.95 Three course - £12.95
*Mon to Sat - 6pm til 9.30pm
Sample menu above (menu changes weekly)
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A real treat for movie buffs, Folkestone Film Factory explains its work. Search 'Factory'



Doris the fishing boat marks 100 years on the sea by being fitted with a new rudder. Search 'Doris'



Sir David Frost joins students for the degree ceremony in Rochester Cathedral. Search 'Frost'



X Factor star Ashley McKenzie goes back to school to perform his new single. Search 'Ashley'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

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New limits on booze cruisers hits Kent

BUSINESSES and ports in Kent will be hardest hit by a vote in the European Parliament that threatens to end booze cruise trade, the leader of the UK Independence Party has warned.

Nigel Farage, a MEP for the South East, criticised the new guidelines, which would cut the amount of cigarettes and alcohol Brits can bring back from the Continent, blaming the move on "appalling puritans".

Under the rules the tobacco allowance will be slashed by nearly 90 per cent and booze limits by half. It is tough enough with the fall of the pound against the euro," said Mr Farage.

"A booze cruise to Calais or Boulogne is a good fun day out and very good for Kent, good for Kent business and good for the ports.

"If you take away the cheap fags and booze,

■ BY JENNA PUDELEK

people will not go in big numbers and who does that benefit?

"It is just these appalling puritans wanting to control every aspect of our lives and people will go on smoking and drinking of course."

But those in favour of the guidelines on cross-Channel shopping said it would put a stop to cheap alcohol and cigarettes being resold.

In a knife-edge vote last week, 328 MEPs were in favour and 319 were against the strict new guidelines for "personal consumption".

Three out of 10 South East Euro-MPs, who represent Kent, voted in favour of the legislation, which could come into force in two years' time – Caroline Lucas, leader of the Green Party, Lib Dem Sharon Bowles and Labour's Peter Skinner.

MEPs backed new guidelines of 400 ciga-

rettes, 200 cigarillos and 100 cigars, compared with UK Customs limits for returning travellers of 3,200 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos and 200 cigars.

With drink, the European parliament defined personal consumption as five litres of spirits, 45 litres of wine and 55 litres of beer, as opposed to UK Customs guidelines for personal consumption as ten litres of spirits, 90 litres of wine and 110 litres of beer.

Mr Farage said he planned to fight the cuts.

"I think there is going to be intensive lobbying against it now. Kent will be hardest-hit because there is nowhere else you can feasibly go for a day trip to France from."

However, a spokeswoman for ferry operators P&O said it did not think the new rules would affect its trade. "There will still be no legal limit on the amount of goods you can bring back. They are levels, not limits. They are a guide for customs officers to work by."

Fashion queen Millen's African fashion college

INTERNATIONAL designer Karen Millen will go back to her roots today when she attends a seminar at the University for the Creative Arts.

The Maidstone-born designer, who studied at the Rochester university – then known as Kent Institute of Art and Design – returns to the Fort Pitt Hill campus for an international development evening.

Fashion management course leader Sheelagh Wright will present a lecture on the Gateway School of Fashion in South Africa, set up for designers affected by HIV.

The school was opened by the Hope HIV charity, with support from Ms Millen, Mrs Wright and UCA Rochester.

The two women visited the poverty-stricken Pietermaritzburg area in 2006.

Inspired by what they saw, the designers began work on opening the Gateway School in a run-down former prison.

After two years the school finally opened its doors to 22 students in January.

Ms Millen, who lives in Watlington, said: "It would be a dream come true if one of the students became an international designer."

Renowned author to address CPRE

THE Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is to hold its annual meeting on Friday.

The group is due to select a new chairman, with Richard Knox-Johnson likely to take the post.

Currently vice-chairman, he is a business consultant specialising in the financial sector and a former soldier.

New nominations for vice-president include Ashford MP Damian Green, county tourist alliance chief and recent

High Sheriff Amanda Cottrell and Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Derek Wyatt.

The meeting, at Lenham Community Centre, starts at 2pm and the charity says any residents who want to see the new officers elected are welcome to attend.

After the meeting, naturalist, author and TV presenter Richard Mabey will give a lecture entitled A Parable from the Backwoods.

BACKWOODS: Naturalist and author Richard Mabey will give a lecture at CPRE Kent's annual meeting at Lenham on Friday



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DIET: Feed hedgehogs dog food, not bread and milk

Help wildlife thrive during the winter

PAT CRAWFORD gives wildlife gardening advice from Hadlow College in her exclusive column for Yourmaidstone.

THIS is the time of year when wildlife can have a difficult time. Food may be getting scarce and, if frosts are a regular occurrence, water may be even scarcer.

Providing accessible water is a cheap way of attracting birds and small mammals – and it makes a vital contribution to their survival. Containers should be kept clean and the water renewed on a daily basis if possible.

Made-up mixes to feed particular species are available, but make sure to buy from reliable sources such as garden centres or nurseries, because some cheap mixes afford little nutritional value – and some even contain ingredients that are harmful.

A cheap way of offering food for fruit-loving birds is to provide an apple cut in half. The old maxim 'an apple a day...' works for birds too!

Loss of traditional weather patterns means species such as hedgehogs – which would normally spend most of this part of the year sleeping – are increasingly awake and active.

Feed hedgehogs a little canned dog's meat (no gravy) and crunched up dog's biscuits are ideal, not bread and milk, which is not good for them.

• Hadlow College's 8.5 acre Broadview Gardens attract a wide variety of wildlife and are open to the public free of charge 360 days of the year. Call 01732 853211 for more details.

Free panto to put a smile on sick childrens' faces

■ BY JANE CONNOLLY



SPONSORSHIP: Charlotte Harris (left) of Buss Murton and Linda Trew from Ellenor Lions Hospices with some of the young cast of Peter Pan

CHILDREN with life-threatening illnesses will experience the magic of pantomime at Dartford's Orchard Theatre.

Ellenor Lions Hospices is the chosen charity of the pantomime's sponsor, solicitors Buss Murton, and this means that young patients, their families and volunteers will see Peter Pan for free during the festive season.

The show stars family favourite Joe Pasquale, who also directs, alongside a cast of talented young Kent actors.

Not only will the charity receive free tickets, but it will also have the opportunity to make collections at some performances.

Linda Trew, the charity's corporate partnerships manager, revealed how uplifting the prospect of a trip to the theatre could be for the children.

"The date is in the New Year, which is nice," she said. "With many people suffering from post-Christmas blues, it gives them something to look forward to."

"A lot of our families end up becoming financially strapped because a parent might have to give up work, so they often miss out on things like tickets to the panto."

Alan Williams, Buss Murton's senior partner, said the firm was privileged to support Ellenor Lions Hospices.

"As local solicitors, Buss Murton is delighted to support the Orchard Theatre's Christmas pantomime," Mr Williams said. "Our involvement in the pantomime forms part of our commitment to the community and is one of a number of initiatives supported by Buss Murton in the local area."

Ellenor Lions Hospices provide care for adults and children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses in north Kent and Bexley. Mrs Trew spoke about the value of children and their families being able to share wonderful experiences.

"Having pantomime tickets donated is a real boost for the families and it helps to give them memories," she said. "The hospice is all about trying to make the most of their time together, by making special memories they can cherish and treasure."

Find out more about the charity by visiting www.ellenorfoundation.org or www.lionshospice.co.uk.

Buss Murton has branches in Dartford, Tunbridge Wells and Cranbrook. For more information go online at www.bussmurton.co.uk.

• Peter Pan will run at the Orchard Theatre from Friday, December 5 to Sunday, January 11. Call the box office on 01322 220000 or book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.

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Entertainment show has become strictly insulting

FOR me, first and foremost, Strictly Come Dancing is an entertainment show, not a serious dance competition.

When it was called Come Dancing it was binned because it didn't pull in viewers.

The new, improved version that is Strictly Come Dancing was designed to involve the public and celebrities – people seem to have forgotten that fact.

Therefore, John Sergeant had a place in the competition along with everyone else and if the public wanted to support him, so be it.

I voted for him the first week, but as time went on, I preferred to vote for the couple that thrilled me most.

The people I am annoyed with though, are those who voted for John not because he charmed them, but to wind up everyone else.

And the fault there lies on the judge's shoulders because their viciousness enrages people so much they want to shut them up – and so they vote for the subject of the vitriol.

The judges seemed to have cottoned on this week and been more positive in their criticism – way, way too late. Which makes me wonder if the producers want the controversy and upset just to keep the viewing figures up and everyone talking about it?

It appears so, since they've allowed the judges to get away with some pretty abominable behaviour over the years.

Kate Garraway was a case in point, she was on crutches in the week leading up to her first dance – yet they made no allowance and slaughtered her, setting the tone for the rest of the time she was there. Granted, she didn't quit – but I wouldn't have blamed her if she did, likewise, I don't blame John.

If it had been me, my pro partner would have had to cut out my tongue and physically restrain me from jumping across their desk. To hear them saying it's so sad and they didn't want him to go, made my blood boil.

I initially agreed with Len Goodman's comments at the end of the weekend before last's show about being sensible and voting for the best dancers but the slagging off of John that

ensued on the message boards has turned my view completely the other way.

There were five other couples that Lisa Snowdon and Cherie Lunghi were less popular than last weekend – not just John. He was just delaying their departure by a week and I don't believe he would have got to the final at the expense of genuine public favourites.

I'm fine with my favourite losing out in a public vote. What I can't abide is the judges engineering the results, and unfortunately, I now fear that will happen again with a dance off in a three couple semi-final: the couple most popular with the public could lose out. Which makes a mockery of the original concept of the show.

I love Strictly, but the fiasco of the semi-final last year and now this, is seriously making me question whether I can be bothered.

Be a fan, chat about it, enjoy it but remember, the sun will still rise tomorrow.

• **EDITOR'S NOTE:** All bloggers are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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Write to The Editor, Yourmaidstone, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

• We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion

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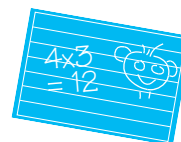
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BREAK TIME

As good as gold

STUDENTS will follow traditional rules to make sure their behaviour and manners are up to scratch.

Sutton Valence Preparatory School's golden rules are a set of guidelines designed to encourage pupils to act in a positive manner, and exercise their creativity as and when appropriate.

Youngsters at the Chart Sutton school will be expected to follow the new code of behaviour by being kind, helpful and honest, listening carefully, working hard, and respecting their peers and teachers.

Headmaster Craig Gibbs said: "Children need to learn acceptable standards of behaviour and it is up to us, as their teachers, to lead by example.

"We are proud of the manners and conduct of our pupils, but we can all do better. The golden rules will be a test for us all, not just the children, but hopefully the whole school will benefit."

The new rules will apply in the playground as well, by encouraging the pupils to play traditional games such as marbles, hopscotch and skipping. Some year six pupils will follow a Kent County Council accredited course to become play leaders.

Mr Gibbs said: "The Golden Rules have not been designed to cramp the students' style or personalities, but rather to channel their energies into the right direction so they get the most out of their time with us."

Bringing back the birch

■ BY ANNA WHITE

GREEN-fingered young volunteers spent a morning planting trees at Bearsted Woodland Trust.

BTEC students from the New Line Learning Academy in Maidstone who are taking a land, countryside and environment course, put their knowledge into practice when they helped members of the trust on Friday.

The pupils planted trees at the site off Church Landway, Bearsted, including a Himalayan birch, which they donated to the trust in recognition of its hard work.

Gabrielle Baldry, 15, said: "I really enjoyed digging and planting the trees. We also had to put guards around the trees to protect them from rabbits."

Amy Jones, 15, said: "It was brilliant to work with the trust helpers. They were so kind and when we struggled to do what they asked, they helped us out even more."

Academy spokeswoman Moira Mitchell said: "Our BTEC students were keen to be involved with a community project and the trust seemed the ideal place to utilise their skills."

"The area is beautiful, accessible to all and well used by people living in and around Maidstone, and we are glad to be able to support such a worthwhile cause."



ROOTS RUN DEEP: New Line Learning Academy pupils with Bearsted Woodland Trust volunteers

If you have a local community project students at New Line Learning Academy can help with, call Ms Mitchell on 01622 742892 or email moira.mitchell@newlinelearning.com.

Bearsted Woodland Trust protects and

maintains 16 acres of woodland and meadow, providing a place of exercise and recreation for locals and visitors. The trust is developing, enhancing and restoring a natural habitat for animals and plant life, and there are plans for a games area for youngsters.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk



West Malling CEP School Open days for September 2009

Is your child due to start school in
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We have four sets of the latest Frank Skinner, Harry Hill and Grumpy Old Women DVDs up for grabs – plus the lucky first prize winner will get Al Murray, The Pub Landlord's Book of British Common Sense thrown in as well.

Following his return to stand-up after a decade, Frank Skinner Stand-Up was released this month on DVD by Universal Pictures. Filmed at Frank's homecoming gig – during his twice-extended, 100,000-ticket sell-out tour – it sees the multi-award winning comic perform in front of an audience of thousands at one of his three Birmingham National Indoor Arena shows.

And if that isn't enough, fans of the double Bafta-winning Harry Hill's TV Burp will get the chance to see all the funniest moments from the show to date on Harry Hill's TV Burp Gold.

The disc brings together the best sketches, wittiest quips and most memorable guest appearances from seven series, plus a host of exciting extras and unseen behind-the-scenes footage.

The week's viewing isn't complete without Harry's universally-acclaimed spin on the soaps, big-budget dramas, and reality television oddities we've all been enjoying. Over the years TV Burp has served up plenty of inventive send-ups.

The touring phenomenon Grumpy Old Women Live comes to DVD for the first time, giving its many loyal fans another chance to see the original cast of Jenny Eclair, Dillie Keane and Linda Robson on top form.

Are you a Grumpy Old Woman? Are you more likely to be shaking your rolling pin than your booty? Are you a little bit hot, a little bit hairy? How did you get so ... old? Well, don't worry, you're not the only Walkman in an iPod world and three



highly trained Grumpy Old Women are ready to embark on their biggest grump fest to date.

This critically-acclaimed theatre hit is the ideal gift for the hormonal grunch in your life over the season of goodwill and cheer. To enter this great competition, simply answer this question:

Which comedian host's ITV's TV Burp on Saturday evenings?

Send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to: DVD II Giveaway, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is December 10, 2008. No purchase necessary.

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TALK TIME

SARAH NEILL

The 22-year-old property developing and planning student talks to Yourmaidstone about why she likes living in the county town



Tell us a little about yourself

I attended the Cornwallis School, which is now the Cornwallis Academy. I am currently studying my masters in planning after completing my degree in property development and planning at the University of the West of England, in Bristol.

I come home at least once a month so I can see my family and friends. I love to read and enjoy listening to music, as well as socialising with my friends.

What are the positive points about living in Maidstone?

I think the best thing about living in Maidstone is because I grew up here I now have a close network of friends. Plus there are good shops in the town, especially with the introduction of Frenlin Walk a few years ago.

I like Maidstone because we're only an hour away from London, so we are close enough to commute but far enough away from the pollution and busy atmosphere of the busy city.

Furthermore, we are about an hour from the coast, which means in the summer we can travel to the beach or take day trips to France. There is also has a good nightlife scene and so many nice restaurants and pubs in the area.

What would you like to see changed in the county town?

I would like to see the town centre regenerated as in places it is a little run-down, and speaking from a development background I don't think the town makes the most of its historical presence.

I also think that it would be nice if we had more activities for younger generations, as I remember when I was younger there was nothing we could really do, so we ended up hanging around in parks or on the streets.

YOUR LETTERS



FREE PRESS: David Cameron backs local media

Tories must answer for web TV vanity

As someone who spends his working life in newspapers, I am saddened to see the tough times being suffered by the local newspaper industry in this country.

However, are your readers aware of the threats to the local press caused not by the advertising recession but by publicly-funded bodies?

I refer to the BBC and our very own Kent County Council.

The BBC wants to increase its local news coverage on the web in direct competition to local news organisations who have been involved with their communities for years and always seek to give readers a voice. The corporation has been panned in recent years for incidents of 'politically correct, left-wing bias'.

And here in Kent our own county council has spent more than £1 million of council tax payers' money on making its own – unsuccessful so far – web TV.

Now the Tory-controlled council



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NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmaidstone.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmaidstone before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmaidstone.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

looks set to spend another £400,000 of our cash on the vanity project as well.

Last week Conservative leader David Cameron assured the Newspaper Society that a Conservative government would not allow the BBC to destroy the local press using money everyone is forced to pay through the licence fee.

So, why are his Conservative chums at County Hall carrying on with their own money-wasting project when their own leader can clearly see that a local free press, without political bias is vital to this country?

I believe the county council has a lot of explaining to do.

T Smith
By email



British artists are at the cutting edge

I am writing in to disagree with the artists who said anyone could emulate the work of Damien Hirst.

I agree that in the traditionalists' way of looking at it, people would find it easier to cut a cow in half and pickle it than paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel – but it is the imagination which Damien employs which shows his great talent.

Having the original ideas which he utilises is what sets him up as a great artist and also what makes art from this country at the cutting edge.

Julia Haynes, from Maidstone, by letter

Why are planners so anti-green?

I do not understand the clear anti-green policies of council planners. I have solar panels on my roof and due to sight lines they are visible from two houses, one is a quarter of a mile away, the other about a mile.

I paid extra to have solar cells that are blended into the slate roof, they are a slightly darker colour than normal slate and all

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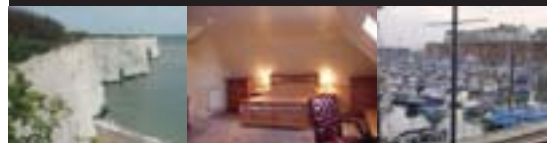


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but invisible. When I applied for planning permission, (with support from many interested parties) the planning officer refused it.

The invisible panels were going to be too much of a blot on the landscape!

Unbelievable!

However, I was confident that on appeal this would be overturned, but prior to getting that far the head of development at the council over-ruled the planning officer; his representative used a few choice words to describe the planning department.

I think they realised how stupid they would look if the press were involved.

Simon Mallett, from Lenham, by email

Parking bay biker did a wheely good job

Good luck to the mystery biker who painted his own parking bay. I know how frustrating it is to have to rely on local authorities to act, so full marks for taking matters into his own hands.

However, I am sure the council members and officers who failed to offer any assistance when he applied for help will not be slow in setting out some sort of deterrent to others who feel the same way.

Miles Bradshaw, from Maidstone, by email

Write a will and you can help a good cause

In the current economic climate many people are understandably concerned about the security of their

finances and are keen to safeguard them as best they can.

That's why I would like to take this opportunity to encourage readers of Yourmedway to think seriously about making a will to protect the future interests of their family and loved ones.

I work for Macmillan Cancer Support and I specialise in helping people through the process of making wills.

You can read Macmillan's free, straightforward introduction to Wills booklet or watch a video about how legacies change lives at www.macmillan.org.uk/legacies.

I am here to help you through the process and very much look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Millward, Macmillan legacy adviser, by email

Get great gifts and benefit cancer fight

I would like to invite your readers to join me in supporting the Prostate Cancer Charity by selecting gifts from its Christmas catalogue – full of great festive ideas.

By supporting the charity in this way, not only will people help to raise much-needed funds, but also to raise awareness of prostate cancer, which is the most common cancer in men in the UK.

The catalogue features a great range of more than 40 gifts for friends and family including designer clothing, kitchenware, calendars and diaries, as well as seasonal goodies and Christmas cards.

The money generated from the

2008 Christmas Catalogue will help the charity to fight prostate cancer on every front – through research, support, information and campaigning.

Each year almost 35,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in the UK and 10,000 men die from the disease. That is one man every hour.

I am sure you will agree the scale of the disease is shocking.

As a keen supporter of The Prostate Cancer Charity, I appeal to all men to watch for the possible symptoms of prostate problems and seek medical advice immediately.

A diagnosis of prostate cancer can have an impact on the whole family, which is why the Prostate Cancer Charity exists and every penny makes a difference.

To order your copy, please call 020 8222 7650 or visit the Prostate Cancer Charity website, www.prostate-cancer.org.uk.

Any orders over £20 will receive a free jar of traditional sweets.

Thank you for your help and support.

Tommy Walsh, celebrity gardener, on behalf of The Prostate Cancer Charity, by email



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GOOD FRIENDS: Some of the cast of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, below Emma Barton is a real honey as the pantomime's leading lady

Take a bite out of panto

Marlowe's final Christmas is sure to be a laugh

HEIGH ho, heigh ho, it's off to work we go as the Marlowe's Christmas pantomime gets under way.

The spectacular show will be packed with family fun and an all-star cast as they bring the story of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs to life. With lots of laughs, great singing and dancing, stunning costumes, magical scenery and some fun audience participation, there should be plenty to keep people of all ages entertained.

The beautiful Snow White is played by Emma Barton, who played Honey Mitchell in Eastenders. Children's TV favourite Stephen Mulhern is back by popular demand as the cheeky Court Jester, while local legend Dave Lee will be picking up the ghost gag bench as Nurse Nellie.

Ben Roddy, whose stage credits include Deep Blue Sea, Pride and Prejudice and An Evening With Gary Lineker, will play Herman the Henchman. American actress Valerie Cutko will be bringing the Wicked Queen to life, while Kent's own Phil Holden will be appearing as one of the dwarfs. The dashing Prince Lorenzo is played by Richard Hurst, who has a variety of stage, TV and music credits to his name.



SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

Saturday November 29, to Sunday, January 18,
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury

Produced by the same team that brought Aladdin to the Marlowe last year, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs tells a classic story about betrayal, peril, friendship and love.

Snow White was already a popular fairytale in many European countries when the Brothers Grimm made the German version famous. In 1937 Disney made what many consider to be the definitive version of

the tale, giving the dwarfs individual names for the first time and creating what remains a favourite film with contemporary audiences more than 70 years later.

When a kindly Queen hopes to have a beautiful daughter, her wish is granted and the child is named Snow White. But her mother dies and the King then marries a vain and spiteful woman. Every day the Wicked Queen asks her enchanted mirror 'who is the fairest of them all?' and receives a satisfactory answer.

But one day the mirror tells her Snow White is now the fairest in all the land and, in a jealous fury, the Wicked Queen orders that her step-daughter be killed. Unable to carry out the deed, a henchman releases Snow White into the forest where she finds friendship with an unlikely band of characters - Doc, Happy, Sneezy, Grumpy, Bashful, Sleepy and Dopey.

When the Wicked Queen discovers the deception, she sets out to kill Snow White herself. What will become of our heroine?

This will be the last Marlowe pantomime before the theatre closes for redevelopment next year, so don't miss this chance to enjoy the fun.

Tickets are priced from £9 to £21.50. To book call 01227 787787 or visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

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COBTREE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday,
November 29-30,
Museum of Kent Life, Sandling

START the festive season in style at the Museum of Kent Life's first ever Cobtree Christmas Festival.

This weekend visitors will be able to enjoy the festival for free as the museum throws open its gates, though small charges will apply for car parking and certain activities.

Meet Father Christmas on his magical tractor sleigh and enjoy a ride around the museum's grounds, along with a tasty yuletide treat from Santa. There will be lots more entertainment on offer including traditional children's fairground rides, face painting and a festive wreath making workshop in



the Oasthouse. The workshops will take place at 11am and 1pm both days.

Adults will be able to enjoy some warm mead, mulled wine and roasted chestnuts. With more than 60 stalls selling a range of arts and crafts, there will also be opportunities to buy unusual

gifts and accessories.

Along with the museum's resident attractions, including the adoptable farmyard family, there should be plenty to keep everyone amused. For more information call 01622 621242 or visit www.museum-kentlife.co.uk.

THEA GILMORE

Monday, December 1
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

SONGS of despair and hope have been crafted by singer/songwriter Thea Gilmore for her latest album.

Described by critics as 'the best wordsmith of her generation', Gilmore is making her much-anticipated debut at Maverick@Zebra next week. She visits the county town as part of her winter tour to promote latest album Liejacker, a collection of songs that reflects the true dark and light of life.

Liejacker, her sixth album, was recorded at a traumatic time in Gilmore's life. She had been diagnosed with depression, split from her record label, temporarily broken up with her long-term partner, parted company with her manager of ten years and left her new record label after just one album. To add to the intense and conflicting emotions of this time, she also gave birth to her first child.

As she battled with the shadows of her illness, Gilmore wrote some of her darkest songs ever. But although Liejacker started from darkness, it ends with positivity.

Her special guest will be singer/songwriter Joan Coffey. The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12 in advance or £14 on the door. To book call 01622 744481.



Picture: SCOTT WRIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY



SEASONAL FUN

Monday, December 1, to
Sunday, January 4
Leeds Castle, near Maidstone

A CLASSIC fairytale has inspired Leeds Castle's Christmas festivities this year, which will be even more magical than ever.

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite ballet will be the theme as the castle welcomes the festive season in

style. There will be a series of events and attractions on offer throughout December, giving visitors the chance to enjoy the season in a beautiful setting.

There will be opportunities to meet Father Christmas on December 6 and 7 and from December 13 to Christmas Eve. See his cottage on the Pavilion Lawn, buy goodies at the Land of Sweets and find a selection of great Christmas gifts.

There will also be evening openings on December 15, 16, 17 and 22, with their own special attractions. Once the festivities are over, visitors can follow the 12 Days of Christmas trail around the grounds from Boxing Day to January 4.

There are extra charges for most of these activities and many need to be booked in advance. For more details see www.leeds-castle.com or call 01622 765400.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Have an ace night when you jive to great music

GET ready to swing when the Jive Aces bring their high energy show to Southborough on Friday.

Billed as the UK's top jive and swing band, the Jive Aces have performed all over the world and delighted audiences with their versions of famous songs, as well as original material.

The concert will be held at the Royal Victoria Hall Theatre at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £12/£10. To book call 01342 300075.

Snap up a unique gift when you visit the fair

FIND unusual gifts at the Lenham Christmas Art, Craft and Collector's Fair this weekend.

There will be a wide variety of stalls selling everything from jewellery to toys. Two Kentish painters, Jane Stevens and Roger Eastwood, will be demonstrating and the raffle prize will be a £70 voucher towards a painting or commission by another Kent painter, Barbara Carter.

The event will be at Lenham Community Centre in Groom Way from 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Admission £1/50p.

Headliners to complete a night of great bands

POPULAR Maidstone band One Day Elliott will be headlining another great night at Sounds@Zebra tonight.

The line-up also boasts performances by other upcoming bands The Startover, Fate of a Stranger and Carmenta. Catch them all playing live at the Zebra Bar in King Street, Maidstone, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 on the door and the show is for over-18s. For more details see www.myspace.com/soundsatzebra.

Meet the artists and make something too

DISCOVER the best artists and designers at the Maidstone Contemporary Art, Craft and Design Exhibition.

The event will be running in the Graham Clarke Gallery at the Hazlitt Arts Centre until January 5. Special events include a preview night from 6pm to 8.30pm on Saturday, with live entertainment and refreshments. Entry is free but booking is essential.

On Saturday, December 6, there will be a 'meet the maker' event and Christmas craft sessions. For details call 01622 602828 or visit www.maidstonearts.com.

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Food and leisure under one roof

■ The Village

THIS hotel and leisure club in Maidstone is set to be a busy place this Christmas.

Quality food is on offer at the Verve Restaurant with the Victory Pub offering top drinks and a bar menu.

A new Starbucks coffee shop offering such

seasonal delights as dark cherry mocha or gingerbread latte is also proving popular.

A four course carvery lunch costs just £14.95 from December and guests can fill up as many times as they want.

The Village is now taking bookings for Christmas and still has some space for last minute office parties and family gatherings.

Throughout December there will be entertainment every Sunday lunchtime, including a visit from Santa. Reservations can

be made by calling the hotel on 01622 672200.

The dedicated staff with head chef Paul Rutter to the fore are there to ensure the quality of food and the atmosphere on offer are second to none.

Orientated towards the customers' every need, they ensure every visit is special.

With the huge variety of food and drink on offer, rooms, a leisure club and pool is there really any need to go anywhere else when you are looking for a complete Christmas day out?

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out guide



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and benefit from downloadable offer vouchers and display your menu online!

Quackers about food

■ The Wild Duck Inn

THIS country pub and restaurant close to Maidstone has been getting a very good reputation over the nine months it has been in business.

Open from noon until 11pm, Monday to Sunday, it specialises in fresh produce cooked on site and sourced locally.

It has established a loyal following of customers for many miles around and this is constantly growing.

The menu changes to reflect the seasons and with Christmas soon to be upon us it is set to be a very popular place with diners who want to take part in celebrations with some good festive food and drink.

Attention to details is one of the fundamentals of the Wild Duck's success, as any response from customers is carefully taken on board so the inn can offer the best possible service to everyone who passes through its doors.

Another reason for its continuing success is that the menu is constantly changing and specials are always being perfected.

At the moment steak and ale pie is top of the list when it comes to popularity.

A warm and spacious venue full of



character, the reputation of the Wild Duck is growing by the day among those who are looking for a top quality place for food and drink.

Tasty, allergy-free dishes



■ Antonias

THIS Tonbridge eatery is a contemporary Italian restaurant serving pizza and pasta – but with a wide range of meat and fish dishes as well making it a more extensive venue than many others of its type.

However, it is in the area of safe eating that it stands out.

To combat food allergies Antonias can duplicate 95 per cent of its menu to be gluten free so people with conditions such as Coeliac disease can enjoy a wide range of dishes they may not normally be able to.

These foods are cooked and prepared in a separate area to ensure there is no risk to health and a selection of gluten free desserts are also on the menu.

Celebrate Christmas this year with various events including a live jazz evening on December 9, a disco on December 19 and a children's day the following day.

This will see a pizza buffet, DJ and bubble machine and staff, including qualified child minders, can look after the young ones while parents go and do the shopping.

Tickets for the children's day are £8.50 and the fee includes a visit from Father Christmas.

CHEF RECOMMENDS

The Wild Duck

Start with crab cakes and marinated courgettes with herb mayonnaise. Then a roast saddle of venison with braised red cabbage and pomme dauphinoise. End with pear tart tartin with butterscotch sauce and vanilla icecream. Tel: 01622 831340

Antonia's

Traditional turkey roast in the comfort of a friendly family restaurant or something a little different – Moroccan spiced lamb or sweet chilli salmon to spice up your Christmas Day. The vegetarian option is Antonia's special roast pepper and butternut squash risotto. All meals available gluten free. Tel: 01732 368877

The Village

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yourmaidstonegetaways

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Take the big ship to Dunkirk

BY GARY WRIGHT

WE'RE pretty lucky here in Kent: we can genuinely boast some beautiful countryside, some great restaurants and decent days out.

All in all it's a good place to live. And when we want to get away for a few days, we are surely the best placed in Britain: Europe is just 22 miles away.

I never understand why people subject themselves to a day driving to Devon or Cornwall only to face endless jams and over-priced food?

Heading across the Channel has always seemed the better option to me.

Two hours on a ferry and you are in a charming foreign country and if the mood takes you, you can be in a Mediterranean cafe in less time than it takes you to drive to a Cornish beach in summer.

And for a short break, France has always offered the people of Kent a lot.

I'd forgotten what Dunkirk was like. It's right on our doorstep really but over the years I have missed it because I've either turned right at the port heading for Le Touquet or Normandy or if I have turned left I've generally been heading for Germany or further east.

NorfolkLine ferries out of Dover will take you to Dunkirk port in two hours for just £19 if you chose your time right.

Well the port's not actually in Dunkirk, the town's another 11km east but don't miss the charming little town of Gravelines which is actually much closer and definitely worth a visit.

A walled town surrounded by canals, it has markets twice a week, pretty architecture and my meal in Le Harlequin restaurant near the seafront ranks in my top ten seafood meals, ever.

Dunkirk though is a bustling town which still feels prosperous and balances nicely its



HISTORIC PORT: The Duchesse Anne, one of the Musee Portuaire attractions in Dunkirk

historic past and industrial present with the shopping and restaurants demanded by visitors.

After a few days in France the only thing I ever miss is a decent cup of tea, so I was pleasantly surprised to find a really lovely tearoom, La Palmeraie.

It's decorated with an African jungle theme, tucked away just off the main shopping centre, and it is popular with locals of all ages who popped for a cup of Darjeeling or Earl Grey (or about a dozen other types) along with a crepe or gaufre (a pancake or waffle respectively).

Dunkirk has a lot of history, founded in the 8th Century it is still France's third most important port (and I learned the very last city to be liberated in 1945).

Damn, I was determined not to mention 1940, Operation Dynamo or the Little Ships, so I won't – but be assured the town has not forgotten.

History goes back way before the Wars though, so look out for Jean Bart. You won't miss him, there's a huge statue in the centre of town.

Part private pirate and part French naval man, during the late 1600s Dunkirk's most celebrated son saved Paris from starvation and gave the British Navy a kicking at sea too.

An interesting chap as I discovered to my delight at the Musee Portuaire (picture left).

I'm not a big fan of museums but I was genuinely pleased I popped in. Alongside a look the dockworkers' lives over the years in Dunkirk, and a summary of the aforementioned M. Bart's suc-

cesses, there is a special exhibition until January: The Story of the Liner.

Dunkirk made 11 between 1914 and 1966 and the museum shows models with mock up cabins and uniforms. But the jewel for me is the 24-minute colour promotional film from 1953. A true insight into the time complete with period racial stereotyping and everyone smoked (well they were French).

Nowadays smoking indoors is banned and the social character of France has changed slightly. But for a couple of days, the town offers a convenient taste of France on our doorstep.

We would like to thank the tourism offices in Dunkirk and Gravelines and Norfolkline Ferries (0844 8475042 or www.norfolkline.com) for their help.



MALO les BAINS: Where holidaymakers head in Dunkirk for the summer

FACT FILE: FRANCE

Time difference	UK plus 1 hr
Capital	Paris
Population	60.7 million
Language	French
Climate	North, as UK
Religion	Catholic
Currency	Euro (1.17 approx to £1)

Travel details

There are several themed short break programmes for stays in Dunkirk and the French Flanders region through the Office de Tourisme Dunkerque Dunes de Flandre region.

Breaks include a Discovery Weekend from 69 euros to discover the maritime and wartime history of Dunkirk: includes a pass to its museums, a port tour, free public transport and shopping coupons. From 69 euros per person (two people sharing a double room); you can have 1 night B&B in a 2 star hotel, dinner and a tourist pass.

Other breaks include the Dunkerque Gourmet Weekend from 99 euros per person.

Discovering the fortifications of Gravelines and its history costs from 91 euros per person (based on two people sharing). One night at a bed and breakfast or hotel, gourmet dinner, museum entry a canal tour, audioguide of the walled town.

For more information visit: www.flandrecotedopale.com or email: dunkerque@flandrecotedopale.com

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yourmaidstonestyle

Yummy mummy

See how style guru Nicole gave Sunita a new look

YOUNG mum Sunita Ralh decided she needed to dump her T-shirt and jeans for a new glam look so we sent her along to Detail Style image studio to meet Nicole Pitt-Williams, a qualified fashion and image stylist.

Sunita was determined to find some alternatives that are simple to maintain as she juggles a hectic life as a full-time mum and beauty therapy student.

"But I still like to have fun with my girlfriends when I have the chance and I wanted Nicole to help me find the right look," she said.

First Nicole gave Sunita, 27, from Folkestone, a colour consultation to find the perfect hues to complement her skin tone, eye and hair colour.

Style explained: "I then moved on to the style consultation, which looks at the body as a whole and works on proportions, camouflaging the parts we like to hide and highlighting the assets."

So it was off to New Look in Ashford, where they stock the fabulous Inspire range for sizes 18-26 and offer excellent value to fit Sunita's budget.

Sunita said: "I'm really happy with the result and now I'm looking forward to showing off my new looks. And



BEFORE: Jeans and T-shirt

GIRL'S GOT STYLE: Casual (Jeans, price £12; top, price £10; faux fur gilet, price £10) or smart (Dress, price £25; shrug, price £12; bow shoes, price £20), Sunita has a new style for every occasion, and has been transformed from her previous self, left

thanks to the colour swatch and a shopping guide, I'm now really looking forward to shopping alone."

Nicole aims during her consultations to help people find out about styles that suit their body, colours that them perfectly and useful ways of saving money.

So, as well as looking slimmer, younger, more professional and feeling more confident, Detail Style aims help you to shop smart too.

Prices for Nicole's help start from £25. But readers can have a free no obligation 30-



minute consultation, by calling Nicole on 01303 245028 or email her on Nicole@detail-style.com.

And the first 15 readers to contact Nicole will receive a free 50 image Essential Style guide.

Nicole will be running style workshops soon – the first will be held in Folkestone on Saturday, December 6.

• Sunita had her hair restyled by Rachel at DIVA Hair Design, Hythe, 01303 266364
Photographs were taken at The Grand, The Leas, Folkestone.



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MAIDSTONE SHOPPING



VALUE: The store cherishes its customers

Good service will give you a good night's sleep

THE County Bed Company stocks a huge choice of more than 100 beds, 200 headboards and 100 mattresses to meet the needs of all customers.

Owners David Cheeseman and Neal Thomas, who together have more than 50 years experience in the industry, take great pride in the service they offer and in providing good quality beds and mattresses at prices everyone can afford.

The company, which has a large three-floor showroom in Strood High Street, offers all customers free delivery to the room of their choice, as well as unpacking and assembling all divan beds, and disposing of the old bed, free of charge.

The County Bed Company has defied the credit crunch by opening its second store in Tonbridge this year.

Baby store celebrates three years of business

A MATERNITY wear store will be offering customers a small gift to mark its third birthday next weekend.

Pregalicious specialises in day-to-day and special occasion fashionable clothes and accessories for mums-to-be.

The store on the ground floor of the Royal Star Arcade off Maidstone High Street celebrates its birthday on Saturday, December 6.

The company Smallprint will also be in Pregalicious to offer shopper's the chance to have their child's fingerprint immortalised in silver as part of the celebration.

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Until December 10, WHSmith is offering a 20 per cent discount on orders over £30. Order at www.whsmith.co.uk.

Prices start at £8.99 with delivery from £1.99. Allow up to 21 days for delivery.

Italian chef turns up the heat with book signing

TOP celebrity chef Gino D'Acampo will be making an appearance at Bluewater tomorrow.

The housewives' favourite is the star of Saturday Kitchen, Ready Steady Cook, Too Many Cooks, This Morning and An Italian in Mexico. He will be signing copies of his new book, Buonissimo! Italian Food Has Never Been So Sexy, at Waterstone's from 5.30pm.

The book is published in paperback by Kyle Cathie, priced at £14.99. For more details call the store on 01322 624831.

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BHS
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yourmaidstonemusic

Ups and downs of that difficult second album

BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE long wait is finally over – Sega-inspired instrumental rockers Up C Down C have finally released their second album, Embers.

The Medway-based cult quartet – who took their name from the well-circulated Sonic the Hedgehog cheat Up C Down C Left C Right C ABC + Start – said they were relieved the three year gap between debut and follow-up releases were over.

And the genre dodging/defining post rock instrumentalists told The Ether they were already looking ahead to album number three.

You can view the band's interview and exclusive two-song set at www.yourkenttv.co.uk

Guitarist Chris Garth said the Embers release was a long time coming.

Newer

He said: "The album's really old and has just been sat waiting to come out for over a year. To be honest we're glad it's finally out there."

"It took a while to put together as it's more of a studio album than our debut and we messed around on it for a long time with Pro Tools."

"It's still fun to play songs off the album but we want to work on newer stuff. We've already got newer, newer material and that's a lot more where we're at than this album."

"Because of that we want to follow the new album up with another one pretty soon."

Chris went on to laud the booming music scene in Medway, saying it provided the opportunity for bands to get to know one another better.

He said: "There are loads of good, different bands in Kent, especially in Medway. Lots of



RELIEVED: Up C Down C have finally released their long-awaited second album and are already looking to start their third

people like Lupen Crook, Hospital Bombers, Let Our Enemies Beware and Sparrows.

"It's kinda cool as we're friends with these bands and get to do gigs together and bond the way men should."

Up C Down C played two London gigs in the space of two days this month.

They started in Fulham on Wednesday, November 12 then took to the stage at 93 Feet East, Brick Lane, the following night.

To watch the band perform on The Ether visit www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search for 'Up C'.

For more information on the band, visit www.upcdownc.com.

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X Factor star Ashley McKenzie performs new song, Freedom Fighters



See live performance by Brit pop act Shelta



The Kent chart

1. Steve Furlong – To fall with you (from Birchington)
2. D-FiNITIVE – Space (from Tenterden)
3. Kayley Weller – Tonight is going to be our night (from Deal)
4. Ron Bowdery – The Ghostship in sea mist (from New Eltham)
5. Shotgun Junky – Destiny (Maidstone)

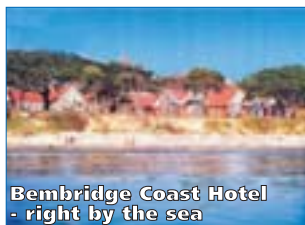
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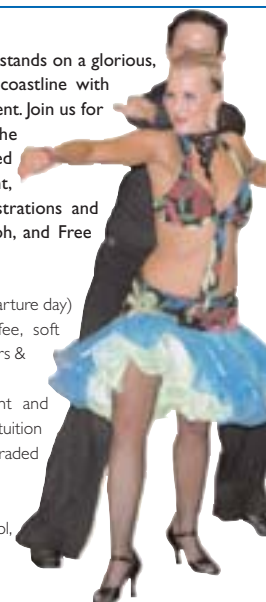


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PROPERTY NEWS

'Tenants can look beyond social sector'

HOUSING minister Margaret Beckett has distanced herself from reports that the Government is considering scrapping lifetime social tenancies, but she has said she would like to see people try to move into the private sector.

Speaking at a seminar organised by The Smith Institute think tank, Mrs Beckett described the housing reform green paper on social housing as "very much a work in progress".

She said: "I've made no decision, and nor has any minister, on the content and timing of the green paper."

"We've made substantial improvements to the housing stock, [but] we've not been nearly so good in investing in people who are living in these homes."

And Mrs Beckett indicated that she wanted to encourage social tenants or would-be social tenants to look beyond social housing to the private sector.

"If people could find greater stability and security in the private rented sector, or could take advantage of low-cost home ownership, then maybe fewer would think social housing was their only option," she said.

Charity alarmed by economic distress

EIGHTY per cent of those who took part in a recent survey want the Government to be more active in helping homeowners at risk of having their homes repossessed to combat the risk of people being forced on to the streets this winter.

The poll, for homeless charity St Mungo's, also found 52 per cent of Britons are concerned about their financial situation and more are now cutting down their spending on gas, electricity, heating and food.

"We are witnessing a downturn in the economy that is being felt at all levels of society," said St Mungo's chief executive Charles Fraser.

"The Government needs to act quickly if we are to avoid a sharp increase of rough sleepers on the streets."



AT RISK: Winter on the streets



WHAT AM I BID?: Even auctions – normally a guaranteed way of shifting houses – have been unable break the credit crunch's stranglehold on the property market, forcing agents and sellers to become more creative and proactive

A real hammering

■ BY NICK AMES

THE economic situation could mean a new approach for professionals selling homes, according to experts.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says the business of typical 'old-style' estate agents has hit a 30-year low, selling an average of just one home a week.

Property auctions have usually been regarded as a surefire way of getting rid of homes that are difficult to shift, but one last month involved 74 lots of homes and land – and received just three bids and no sales.

While some vendors are now adopting unusual tactics, from staging raffles to throwing in free cars or holidays with their homes, a few pioneering estate agents are considering revolutionising the way they sell properties.

Lauristons estate agent is now charging a £999 flat fee for selling a home instead of the

two per cent to three per cent charged by most of its high street rivals, saving prospective sellers of average priced properties as much as £8,000.

"The market's changing and the current economic climate means it probably won't be the same in the future," warned the firm's sales and marketing director, Steve Truman.

Thornley Groves, a traditional estate agency chain, has bought 25 per cent of Brightsale, a pioneering online estate agency.

Brightsale has no physical 'branch'. Its trained negotiators instead advise sellers on how to handle buyers, and will arrange floor plans, photographs and brochures. The fee, if a home sells, is 0.5 per cent, or only a sixth of the levy by many conventional agents.

"We'd been searching for a way to bring

estate agencies into the 21st century. Clients love what we do but in the internet era they expect more," said Thornley Groves' managing director, Michael Groves.

"Estate agencies have a long way to go to harness the power of the internet for the benefit of their customers."

Two other estate agents are trying a different idea – swapping houses. Lynn Thompson and Chris Tinsley run separate agencies but have joined forces to try to 'match' sellers, who are encouraged to swap properties of equal value, or trade up or down and pay the difference.

While some of these pioneering efforts may fall by the wayside when the housing market picks up – business consultancies and agents themselves suggest 2010 as the earliest date that will happen – at least a few of these schemes may last long enough to become mainstream as house selling changes.

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ALLINGTON
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ALLINGTON
Immaculate modern three bedroom semi. Conservatory and en-suite. Garage and driveway. No chain.
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ALLINGTON
Three bedroom semi-detached chalet. In need of modernisation. Corner plot. No chain.
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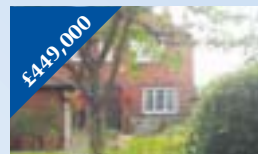
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Leybourne



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OIEO £170,000

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- Close To Train Station

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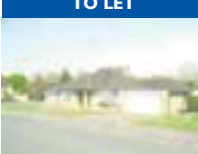


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- Recently Refurbished Throughout

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TO LET



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Enquire Lettings

£1150 PCM

TO LET



- KINGS HILL
- 4 Bedroom Detached Home
- Front And Rear Gardens

Enquire Lettings

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TO LET



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MOTORS NEWS



Hyundai and Kia soar to join top five carmakers

AUTOCAR magazine has named Hyundai-Kia as its Automotive Manufacturer of the Year at its annual award ceremony in London.

Citing the Korean giant's "mind-blowing" ambition, editor Chas Hallett presented the title to Mr Nam-Yong Kim, president of Hyundai-Kia's European research and development centre in Germany.

Hallett said: "When the irrepressible Hyundai-Kia group started talking, just a few years ago, about wanting to become the world's fifth largest car company behind Toyota, GM, Ford and Audi-VW, many of us were sceptical.

"Then the Korean group got serious. They hatched a plan to assemble a European design and engineering team to conceive a range of models for Europe."

The product of a merger in 1998, Hyundai-Kia currently dominate the Korean domestic car market with an 80 per cent share and this year became the world's fifth largest car-maker according to Automotive News in the US.



Asda sparks price war by cutting petrol costs

SUPERMARKET giant Asda has reignited the fuel price war by lowering its petrol prices to 90.9p per litre.

It is Asda's tenth consecutive cut since July and brings prices to their lowest level since April 2007. The price of diesel has been reduced to 105.9p per litre.

With the price of crude oil continuing to fall, other retailers will be under pressure to follow Asda's lead.

The price of a barrel has dropped to barely 50 US dollars (£33), from almost \$150 (£100) in early July.

Car giants beg for cash

THE three biggest US carmakers have pleaded with Congress for a \$25 billion lifeline to save their once-proud companies from collapse.

"Our industry... a bridge to span the financial chasm that has opened up before us," said General Motors' chief Rick Wagoner.

Chrysler chief Robert Nardelli, added that a bailout would be "the least costly alternative" when compared with damage from bankruptcy.

But Republican Senators argues that "inefficient production" and "costly labour agreements" have put the US carmakers at a disadvantage against foreign rivals.



A BRIGHT FUTURE: Instead of dithering with a facelift of the 2002 Fiesta, Ford has completely restyled its latest creation with a coupé roofline and excellent handling

Ford changes into top gear with new Fiesta

HAVING done more than anyone to make the supermini popular in the UK after launching the original Fiesta in 1976, Ford then rested on its laurels.

The company will say the newly-launched replacement is the 'Mark VII', but it is really only the fourth generation.

Ford has turned Fiesta facelifts into an art form and even managed to spin-off the guts of one version to create the underpinnings of the original Ka. You just have to admire such salesmanship and nerve, though it helps when you are market leader and have a vice-like grip on the fleet sector.

But times are changing: the nation wants to downsize and cut costs and emissions while Ford would like to ease out of the cut-throat business sector, move upmarket and woo private buyers.

The US car giant is also looking outside the Fiesta's traditional UK and Europe stronghold, to create a global supermini with all the consequent economies of scale.

So, instead of dithering with a facelift of the

ROAD TEST FORD FIESTA

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

then all-new – but not especially loved – 2002 Fiesta, Ford has gone for another fresh start.

And it's an impressive one.

Physically, the car is the same scale as before, rather than a 'super-supermini' like the Peugeot 207 and Renault Clio, perhaps to protect sales of the bigger Focus.

Nevertheless, I thought the knee room good, though lofty passengers will just have to lump it, for the terrific coupé roofline common to both body styles.

Styling inside is typically well-arranged and quality and durability is top-notch, but the drive clinches the deal for me; a well-judged balance between typically sharp handling and ride, light yet responsive steering and a terrific gearshift.

It is a tough call deciding the engine though. I like the all-round competence of the 1.4 TDCi diesel, but the frugal road tax-exempt/low emission 1.6TDCi diesel ECONetic is due in January.

Then again, do not ignore the petrol models; they are so quiet and frugal that they could be your best buy if petrol versus diesel pump prices still diverge and your mileages are only average.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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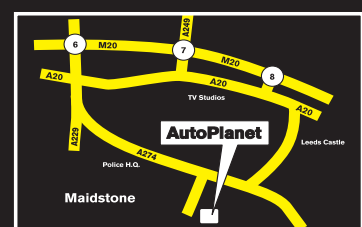
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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

BABY HOT HATCHES

IT'S not just owners of family cars who are having to downsize their ambitions under pressure from rising fuel costs and road tax – performance car owners are also having to get real. Their answer can be found in the buoyant secondhand market for supermini hot hatchbacks like the three little scorchers featured here. No, your insurance premiums won't be a lot better, but you will save on fuel and tax and driving enjoyment could be even higher than before, even if some creature and ride comfort is sacrificed.

carsfor**kent.co.uk**

FORD FIESTA ST



FORD has been one of the champions of hot hatches over the years with its XR and recent ST versions of standard models. The Fiesta ST upholds the tradition in terms of pace and handling even if it can be noisy and ride comfort is primitive. Power comes from a feisty 148bhp 2.0-litre engine so the lowered stance and styling add-ons do not flatter to deceive but, as when new, the Fiesta is not the cheapest contender on the market.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

MITSUBISHI COLT CZT



SOMETHING of an unsung hero, this turbocharged 150bhp 1.5-litre three-door supermini delivers a lot of bangs for your bucks and withstands the potential thrashing hot hatchbacks can be exposed to. 'Mitsi' has made a good job of ensuring the car's extra urge is delivered progressively and when you want it, although the driving experience is not one of the best. The car is well made though and spacious and imaginatively trimmed inside.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
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- SCIENTIFIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL, RESEARCH
- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments 39-43

Public Notices 43

BeneCare Fostering
OFSTED REGISTERED
Can you provide a safe and caring home for vulnerable children? We would love to hear from you if you are interested or involved in Fostering and would like additional information. Full training and support provided in addition to excellent rates of pay.
For details please contact 01732 746697
info@benecarefostering.co.uk
www.benecarefostering.co.uk

Fuji Seal Europe Ltd.
The Fuji Seal Group is the only shrink sleeve manufacturer offering a complete single source solution utilising its network of manufacturing operations in the UK, Netherlands, France, Poland, USA, Asia and Japan. We are currently recruiting the following position:
COSTING ASSISTANT
We are seeking a methodical, extremely accurate and detail orientated person to join our costing team. Computer literate, with an enthusiasm and flair for data analysis, the jobholder will be responsible for preparing prices following requests from the sales department. You will also be responsible for checking quotations and invoices. The job holder will need to be flexible and able to adapt urgently at short notice, whilst maintaining the discipline necessary to keep on track with all the other requirements of the job.
The jobholder must have excellent verbal and numerical skills and be able to work with tight deadlines. Teamwork is essential and the ability to develop good working relationships both within the company and with external contacts is a must. Manufacturing background an advantage however training will be given.
You'll enjoy a full range of employee benefits. To apply please send your CV to HR Department, Fuji Seal Europe Ltd, Somer Close, Gillingham Business Park, Gillingham, Kent ME8 0R1 or alternatively you can email to jobs@uk.fuji-seal.com.
Closing date: 7 December 2008
Strictly no agencies.
Fuji Seal Europe are an equal opportunities employer.

Leading Kent Young People's Charity
seeks to appoint a
FUNDING & BUSINESS MANAGER
£27,000 - £31,500 pa
Never before have children and young people been so much in the spotlight. This is a really exciting time to join Kent Youth — a long established and well respected countywide charity working for children and young people. This new senior post based in Medway will lead on securing funding, manage the charity's business, review our brand and drive our 75th anniversary year of fundraising in 2011-12. Reporting to the Director as well as working with the Trustees Board, this is a great opportunity from someone with relevant experience in the charity, private or public sectors to influence and lead the future of Kent Youth.
Email graham@kent-youth.org for a candidate pack.
Closing Date: 8th Dec 08 Interviews: 15th Dec 08
For an informal discussion, please call Graham Clewes on 01634 281841
Charity No. 1063875 Company No. 3328952 **www.kentyouth.org**

NVQ Guidance Assessors

Permanent full time - 40 hours per week (Mon - Fri)
Positions in London, Kent and Surrey
£23,061 to £26,092 pa plus benefits
dependent on qualifications
YMCAfit are the leading provider of fitness instructor training. We are looking for enthusiastic and inspiring individuals to join our expanding work based learning team.
Candidates must have a Level 2 Gym Instructor Qualification. An Assessor Qualification (D32/ D33 or A1) along with a Teaching Qualification is desirable; however we will provide training for suitable applicants.
For further information and to apply please contact Chandni Sehmi on greatstaff@ymca.co.uk or call 020 7343 1835 quoting reference: KGA.
Closing date: 15th December 2008.
Interview date: 22nd December 2008.
London Central YMCA is committed to the promotion of equal opportunities, both in the provision of its services and in its capacity as an employer.
www.ymcafit.org.uk
Not for profit. Registered Charity No. 1001043

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COULD YOU GIVE A CHILD A CHANCE ?
Integrated Services Programme (ISP) is an independent, not-for-profit childcare organisation providing foster care to children with a wide range of emotional and behavioural needs. We have Centres in Kent, London, Bucks and Sussex. We were judged "Outstanding" in our latest Ofsted inspections.
ISP looks after children from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds including white UK, African, African-Caribbean, Asian and dual heritage. We are keen to recruit carers from similar cultural backgrounds. In addition, we are currently experiencing a high demand to look after children with varying disabilities, children who are involved in the criminal justice system and 'parent & child' placed together.
IF YOU HAVE:
• life experience
• the ability to work with children or young people and parents
• the ability to rise to the challenge of fostering
• patience, determination and a sense of humour
• no young children
• a spare bedroom
• a career change in mind
ISP WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU
We offer full training, 24 hour support and a professional fee from £411 to £543 a week for each child.

For an information pack please contact our Fostering Team on:
0800 085 7989
Visit our website for more information: www.ispchildcare.org.uk

Demelza Hospice Care for Children is a charity providing hospice care for over 450 children with life-limiting illnesses and support for their families across Kent, East Sussex and South London.

We offer specialised care in our 8 bedded residential hospice in Kent and in the family home through our dedicated Community Team working in East Sussex, South West Kent and South London.
We are delighted to announce the opening of a further 6 bedded hospice in Wensley Close, Eltham which will further enhance the services we can offer to the children and families.
We are seeking to recruit to the following post:-
Chef, Full Time, commencing ASAP
(£21,261 - £23,261 inc)
• NVQ II in catering or equivalent
• Diploma in Food Hygiene (level 4) and HACCP (level 3)
• Working with a team of dedicated volunteers to cover daily main meal at midday and an evening meal, including some weekends
• Excellent health and safety and best practice knowledge
• Knowledge of special diets and ability to train others in foundation food hygiene a distinct advantage.
For an informal chat about the role please call Lauren Clifford, Human Resources Officer on 01795 845254.
For an application pack please visit our website on www.demelza.org.uk or contact Recruitment Line on 01795 845295.
Please note that our new hospice has NO PARKING facilities for employees or volunteers.
Closing Date 5th December, 2008
Enhanced Disclosure checks by the CRB will be undertaken for successful applicants. Demelza is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy. Registered Charity No. 1039651. Rook Lane, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DZ



New start for 2009

The Royal School of Military Engineering Course Designer

Salary £34,000 per annum

MidKent College (MCK) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to complement the teams already in place at the RSME.

If you are a Course Designer and would enjoy using your skills and experience to help develop the Military artisans of tomorrow, then this could be the ideal opportunity for you.

You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development.

Whilst you will already have skills, qualifications and experience relevant for this post, you will be fully supported and encouraged to gain further appropriate qualifications and accreditation that will develop you as an individual and benefit the RSME.

If this sounds like the right role for you – get in touch now

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk
Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: Ken Pullan on 07725128661
Closing Date 30th November 2008

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer



New start for 2009

The Royal School of Military Engineering

Engineering Opportunities: £35,000 - £40,000 (Snr Post c£45k)

Mid Kent College (MCK) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to strengthen the teams already in place at the RSME as the 30 year contract transitions to the Colleges management team.

We have opportunities for experienced engineers (ideally degree qualified) to move into lecturing roles. The Professional Engineering Wing (PEW) of the RSME develops military personnel into Clerk of Works to IEng, foundation degree and HND level.

We have positions for:

Electrical Engineers with DC, AC & single/three phase, power generation, transmission & distribution up to 11kV, generators & motors and domestic installations knowledge and experience.

Mechanical Engineers with fluid mechanics & thermodynamics, pipe design and pump sizing, H & C water supply/waste, large scale heating system design, ACR/HVAC control systems and lift technology knowledge and experience.

Construction Engineers with groundwork, timber, masonry & scaffolding, superstructures, finishes and services knowledge and experience.

Project Planner with experience of building site project management and work programming.

Civil Engineer (Snr post) ICE with "contractor" background.

You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development and will be fully supported to gain additional relevant qualifications, memberships and accreditations that develop you as an engineer and benefit the PEW faculty.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk
Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk
Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: Ken Pullan on 07725128661
Closing Date 31st January 2009

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MidKent College is an equal opportunity employer



CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

Your Skills Our Vision



Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Sheerness to Dungeness, Ashford to Ramsgate, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS – and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and well-being for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts.

Why not join us?

STAFF BENEFITS PACKAGE

- Final salary pension scheme
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- Enhanced paternity pay
- Enhanced adoption pay
- Flexible Working Policies
- Extensive Training Programs
- Long service awards
- In-house discounts & external benefits

SELECTION OF CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADMIN AND CLERICAL / DOMESTIC SERVICES

Job Title: Ophthalmology Contracts Manager

Salary: £29,091 to £38,352 pa
Band: 7
Hours: 37.5
Location: Ashford
Ref: 767-ECC614
Closing date: 27/11/08

Job Title: Locality Commissioning Manager - Child Health

Salary: £37,106 to £44,527 pa
Band: 8a
Hours: 37.5
Location: East Kent
Ref: 767-ECC626
Closing date: 28/11/08

Job Title: Speech & Language Therapy Secretary

Salary: £14,834 to £17,732 pa
Band: 3
Hours: 30
Location: Herne Bay
Ref: 767-ECC630
Closing date: 28/11/08

NURSING AND MIDWIFERY REGISTERED

Job Title: Community Nurse X 2

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Birchington / Westgate
Ref: 767-EIC628
Closing date: 26/11/08

Job Title: Community Nurse

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa pr
Band: 5
Hours: 30
Location: Cliftonville
Ref: 767-EIC629
Closing date: 26/11/08

Job Title: Community Nurse

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa pr
Band: 5
Hours: 25
Location: Birchington
Ref: 767-EIC627
Closing date: 26/11/08

Job Title: Intermediate Care Support Nurse

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 37.5
Location: Dover / Deal
Ref: 767-EIC605
Closing date: 27/11/08

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Job Title: Occupational Therapist

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Ashford
Ref: 767-EIC609
Closing date: 27/11/08

Job Title: Occupational Therapist

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Folkestone
Ref: 767-EIC612
Closing date: 27/11/08

Job Title: Psycho-Social Occupational Therapist x2

Salary: £24,103 to £32,653 pa
Band: 6
Hours: 37.5
Location: Folkestone
Ref: 767-EIC559
Closing date: 29/11/08

Job Title: Occupational Therapist (Learning Disabilities)

Salary: £20,225 to £26,123 pa
Band: 5
Hours: 18.75
Location: Broadstairs
Ref: 767-ASH225
Closing date: 30/11/08

For further information and to apply, please visit www.eastcoastkentpct.nhs.uk or call 01227 866450. We are an equal opportunities employer Committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

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St Werburgh Medical Practice

98 Bells Lane, Hoof, Rochester, Kent ME3 9HU
Tel: 01634 250523

PART TIME DISPENSER/RECEPTIONIST REQUIRED

GP Dispensing Practice 20 Hours per week Mon - Fri, NVQ level 2 qualification in Dispensing essential. Must be able to work without supervision and have own transport. Must be willing to cover holidays and sickness.

PART TIME NURSE OR EXPERIENCED HCA REQUIRED

For general treatment room duties at a multi site GP surgery 25 hours per week Mon - Fri am/pm sessions. Car essential, must be willing to cover holiday and sickness.

Closing date: 19 December 2008

Contact: Mrs Julie Allen - julie.allen@nhs.net



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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Assessor/Reviewing Officer (Motor Vehicle)

Ref: P0660

Salary: £19,736 - £25,441

We are looking to recruit a qualified, experienced and highly motivated Assessor/Reviewing officer able to assess trainees on NVQ qualifications up to Level 3 within our vibrant and successful Motor Vehicle department with body repair/paint and refinishing experience would be advantageous. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate good organisational and IT skills and the ability to travel to numerous workplaces to assess trainees. A relevant level 3 qualification is essential and the successful candidate will have or be willing to work towards Assessor/Verifier and H&S qualifications.

Personal Tutor

Ref: P0516

£19,736 - £25,441 pro-rata (18.5 hours per week)

We currently have an opportunity for a part-time Personal Tutor. The post-holder will plan and deliver a range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and have or be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification.

Skills for Life Administrator

Ref: P0474

Salary: £15,057 - £18,534

The successful candidate will be required to work at our sites in Maidstone and Chatham and will have exceptional knowledge and experience and of administration and office procedures and be able to demonstrate excellent organisational and IT skills.

Closing date: Friday, 12 December 2008

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 763 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



Career Opportunities



Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Head of Faculty A Levels, Science & Humanities

Ref 06/103

37 hours per week, salary starting from £42,128 per annum

Lecturer Early Years

Ref 08/40

2 posts at 37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 per annum

Temporary Lecturer Performing Arts and Contemporary Dance

Ref 08/152

27.75 hours per week, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum.

Temporary post to cover maternity leave not to exceed one year

Supply Lecturer HE Business Enterprise and General Management to teach on HNC/ND and BA programmes.

Ref S/HE/BE

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum.

Applicants must hold a first degree in any discipline

Supply Lecturers

Various hours available, salary range £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata per annum

Dental Nursing

Ref S/DN

Information, Advice and Guidance

Ref S/IAG

Mental Health

Ref S/MH

Midwifery

Ref S/MID

Catering and Hospitality

Ref S/C&H

Key Skills Application of Number within Animal Care

Ref S/KSAC

Early Years to teach BTEC First Diploma in Child Care, Learning and Development

Ref S/EY

Supply Trainer Demonstrators

Ref S/TD/ME

Various hours available, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Mechanical Engineering

Machining (turning and milling)

Fabrication and Welding

Network Applications Technician (Advanced)

Ref ATA

37 hours per week, salary starting from £21,440 per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Hospitality & Catering

Ref TD8

2 posts at 18.5 hours per week, salary starting from £18,963 pro rata per annum

Trainer Demonstrator Hospitality & Catering

Ref 08/153

9.25 hours per week, salary starting from 18,963 pro rata per annum

Skills for Life Initial Assessor

Ref 08/154

18.5 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum

Cleaning Coordinator

Ref CLC1

37 hours per week, salary starting from £16,914 per annum.

4 week shift pattern - 3 weeks nights and 1 week of days

Assistant Cleaning Coordinator

Ref ACC1

37 hours per week, salary starting from £15,085 pro rata per annum (nights)

Supply NVQ Assessors in Early Years

Ref S/ASS/EY

Various hours available, salary range from £18,295 - £26,232 pro rata per annum

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th December 2008 at 12 noon

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



New start for 2009

The Royal School of Military Engineering Support Opportunities

Mid Kent College (MCK) is delighted to partner the Royal School of Military Engineering (RSME) at Brompton Barracks, Chatham.

We provide the trades and technical training for over 8500 Royal Engineers each year and are recruiting a number of key posts to complement the teams already in place at the RSME.

Facilities Manager Circa £38,000 - to take full responsibility for the buildings & infrastructure (including workshops and classrooms) occupied by MCK Training Services on site at the RSME. Experience of the management of Electro/Mechanical services essential.

Workshop Assistant £19,008 - £21,000 - to provide practical support within the Fitter Department, assisting with the smooth running of the stores, light maintenance duties and the movement of equipment. Would suit someone with a mechanical background and a current Fork Lift licence.

ICT Site Engineer £19,736 - £25,441 - to provide support and maintenance in response to "logged" fault calls. Must be familiar with the configuration and use of all Microsoft desk top operating systems and experienced with configuring and installing computer hardware ancillary components.

You will work within an established team, in a professional environment at a time when the RSME moves into an exciting phase of its development.

Whilst you will already have skills, qualifications and/or experience relevant for these posts, you will be fully supported and encouraged to gain further appropriate qualifications and accreditation that will develop you as an individual and benefit the RSME.

For an application form and job description please: Visit our website www.midkent.ac.uk

Email: rsme.recruitment@midkent.ac.uk

Telephone 01634 884555 (24 hr answer machine)

For an informal discussion on these positions, please call: Ken Pullan on 07725128661

Closing Date 5th December 2008

The College is committed to Equal Opportunities and to selection on merit. It welcomes applications from all sections of society. We particularly welcome and encourage applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.

MCK Training Services is an equal opportunity employer



MCK Training Services Limited
at The Royal School of Military Engineering

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on our websites by the advertiser.
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- Seasonal contracts. Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
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- Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
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- d. Notwithstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
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Head of Resources/
Course Director

Churchill house is a long established school teaching English to international students.

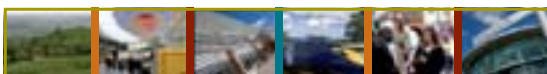
We require an enthusiastic person for a permanent full-time senior teacher/admin position to maintain our large Resources Centre and assist in the planning and placement of students plus other day-to-day Teaching Office administration.

EFL Diploma and previous experience of Resources work and Course Directing essential.

See website at www.churchillhouse.co.uk for general information about the school.

Salary depending on qualifications and experience.

Send full CV to the Academic Principal, Churchill House,
Spencer Square, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 9EQ
or email john@churchillhouse.co.uk

Managing Director's Personal Assistant
Ashford's Future. Salary £29,000 p.a.

Ashford is one of the Government's major growth areas in the south-east and is set to double in size by 2031 with around 31,000 new homes. Ashford's Future is a new company set up to support that agenda, helping to deliver key projects and high quality developments where the community will have access to a wide range of community facilities and good transport links.

Our Managing Director is looking for an experienced Personal Assistant with a meticulous approach who is used to exercising confidentiality and diplomacy.

You will be a good communicator, capable of working on your own initiative. You should have experience of managing diaries, maintaining records as well as arranging and assisting at meetings, responding to correspondence, dealing with telephone calls and enquiries, as well as experience of preparing agendas for meetings. You will also be responsible for receiving visitors and dealing with all enquiries about Ashford's Future at first point of contact.

For an informal discussion please contact Judith Armitt on 01233 330811.

Alternatively for an application form and further details, please send an A4 stamped addressed envelope to:

Personnel and Development, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL

or e-mail recruitment@ashford.gov.uk

Closing date: 5 December 2008.

www.ashfordbestplaced.co.uk/jobs



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Development Officer

Starting salary £26,159, with progression
through contribution related pay to £29,920
per annum

37 hours per week

Shepway Centre, Maidstone

We are an arm's length service providing an impartial advice and support service to parents and carers of disabled children and children with additional needs. We also work closely with schools, services and agencies to promote parental participation.

We believe that good communication between all those involved in a child's education is key to good relationships which will help children achieve.

Joining our team at a time of significant development, you will have exceptional communication skills and be committed to promoting good communication between parents, schools and agencies and increasing parental participation.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively,
please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call
0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number
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Voluntary Services
Assistant circa £13-14k

Working alongside the Voluntary Services Manager based in Sittingbourne as part of the Human Resources team, you will assist with the recruitment, induction, training and on-going support of volunteers to help us deliver our services throughout Kent, East Sussex and South London.

You must be:-

- ◆ Computer literate with Microsoft Office applications
- ◆ An excellent communicator at all levels with endless patience
- ◆ Organised with a flair for complex issues
- ◆ Methodical in approach to administration work
- ◆ Hold a full driving licence
- ◆ Adaptable to constantly changing priorities and workload

Required for 37 hours per week to include some occasional weekend and evening working. Experience of the voluntary sector a distinct advantage.

For an informal discussion contact Lynne Clark, Voluntary Services Manager on 01795 845218. For an application pack please visit our website on www.demelza.org.uk or contact our Recruitment Line on 01795 845295.

Closing Date Friday 28th November, 2008

An Enhanced Disclosure check will be required for the successful applicant.
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Registered Office Rook Lane, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DZ



Medway
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Tutors and Tutor/Assessors

Ref: CA0374E

Venue: Various

Salary: LNFA 1-3 (£17,127 - £20,339) pay award pending

*LNFA 8 (£24,855) pay award pending

Medway Adult Learning Service is seeking to recruit part-time tutor/assessors for the following Train to Gain programmes:

iTQ, Business Admin, Health and Social Care, Teaching and Learning in Schools, Children's Care Learning & Development, Customer Care, Retail Sales

Successful candidates will develop and deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to part-time learners. Applicants must have a full qualification in the teaching of adults and D32/D33/A1 qualifications.

We are also seeking to appoint enthusiastic part-time tutors to teach and participate in the development of programmes in the following areas:

- GCSE subjects: Maths, Biology, Geography
- Skills for Life: ESOL, English and Maths, Personal development
- Complementary therapies: Reiki, Crystal healing, Hopi ear candles
- Languages: Greek, Japanese, French, Spanish, Italian
- Health and Safety: Fire safety, First aid, Health and safety awareness
- National Certificate in Door Supervision
- National Certificate for Personal Licence Holders
- Interior Design
- Computing: General teaching, AutoCad, Sage payroll
- Fitness: Level 3 Fitness Instruction, Yoga, Pilates, Golf, Pole dancing, Tai Chi
- Travel and tourism
- Adult Literacy Learning Support level 2
- Additional diploma in teaching Maths in LLS level 5*
- Plumbing
- RYA courses

A teaching qualification is not always essential but those without a qualification will be required to undertake training within the first year.

For further details and an application pack please contact Christine Osborne, 01634 338423 or email christine.osborne@medway.gov.uk

Any offer of employment for this post will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Bureau Disclosure.

Closing date: 5 December 2008.

For an application pack or to apply visit www.medway.gov.uk or phone 01634 333333 Mon to Fri 8am - 8pm, Sat 9am - 1pm or 01634 332843 24-hour answerphone.

Alternatively email jobs@medway.gov.uk quoting the reference.

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As part of well motivated team with a strong curriculum leader, you will teach primarily on BTEC/Schools/Plumbing courses from Entry Level 3 to Level 2. Your activities will include acting as a personal tutor to a designated group of students, organising work placements and contributing to course development.

Ideally you will currently be working in the FE sector, either at a College or Private Training Provider, with teaching and appropriate practical experience, preferably within the area of plumbing. Your qualifications will include teaching or a willingness to undertake one, as well as a relevant vocational qualification.

This post is subject a CRB check.

The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working hours; lots of support including acting as a personal tutor to a designated group of students, organising work placements and contributing to course development.

For further details, a job description and an application form, please contact the HR department on 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Closing date: 8 December 2008.



Brook Street • Tonbridge • Kent TN9 2PW



Demelza Hospice Care for Children is a charity providing hospice services for children and young people with life-limiting illnesses and support for their families across Kent, East Sussex and South East London.



We offer specialist care in our 8 bedded residential hospice in Kent and in the family home through our dedicated Community Team working in East Sussex, South West Kent and South East London.

We are delighted to announce the opening of a further 6 bedded hospice in Wensley Close, Eltham early in 2009.

We have the following clinical vacancies across our area

Care Co-ordinator £35,631 - £36,983 (including high cost area allowance)

To provide hands on development for all individuals to achieve optimum levels of child focused care, develop team working and promote the Demelza ethos.

- An experienced children's nurse with palliative, complex needs and managerial experience.
- An excellent communicator at all levels.
- Able to recognise individual team member's strengths and develop any opportunities for improvement leading by practical example.

Children's Palliative Care Nurses, based in Sittingbourne or Eltham, South East London - Full and part time positions available.

- Children's Palliative Care Nurses £24,711 - £30,202 (plus HCA allowance for London based roles)
- Qualified children's nurse (RSCN, RNCB) or Learning Disability Nurses with suitable experience.
- Ability to demonstrate good clinical skills and up to date Continuing Professional Development.
- Experienced in working either in palliative care or children with complex needs
- Working a full shift pattern to include nights and weekends.

Community Children's Palliative Care Nurses, based in Greenwich - Maternity cover starting Jan/Feb 2009

- Greenwich Community Children's Palliative Care Nurse £31,970- £37,031 (including high cost area allowance) Based at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and working out of the Community Children's Nursing Team, you will provide specialist services to life limited children and young people in the Borough of Greenwich.
- Experienced community children's nurses, preferably with a community degree.
- Experienced in palliative care and/or complex needs care.
- Working 37.5 to suit the needs of a case load, to include some on-call and weekends.

For an application pack please visit our website www.demelza.org.uk or call the recruitment line on 01795 845295.

For an informal chat about the roles or to arrange an informal visit, please call Lauren Clifford, HR Officer on 01795 845254.

Our South East London hospice has NO PARKING facilities for employees or volunteers.

Closing Date 5th December, 2008

Enhanced Disclosure checks by the CRB will be undertaken for successful applicants. Demelza is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy. Registered Charity No. 1039651. Rook Lane, Bobbing, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8DZ



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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Financial Accountant

Ref: P0495

Salary: Circa £28,000

(dependant upon qualifications & experience)

In order to strengthen our central Finance team and support at the College as it progresses through a period of radical change, we are seeking to appoint a Financial Accountant. The successful candidate will be recently qualified or be at the finalist stage of their qualification.

Lecturer in Motor Vehicle

Ref: P0660

Salary: £25,092 - £32,898

(Starting salary and grade dependant upon qualifications & experience)

Due to expansion of our highly successful Automotive provision we are looking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated lecturer to teach at all levels on a range of Mechanical qualifications within our Motor Vehicle department. Ideally, applicants will have some Heavy Vehicle and/or Motorsport experience and be able to deliver engaging lessons to the highest standard.

A Degree, HNC or HND in an Automotive discipline is essential, as the successful applicant will be required to contribute to the development of higher-level qualifications within the department (e.g. HNC/Foundation Degree).

The department benefits from strong links with Buckmore Park karting circuit (where we run a National Diploma in Motorsport) and has a history of high Success rates across its full-time, part-time and work-based-learning provision.

Lecturer in Skills for Life

Ref: P0468

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

A full time position has arisen within our Skills for Life team to deliver key skills to a variety of vocational areas. In addition some one-to-one support will be required and prior experience in embedding key skills and skills for life in a vocational and/or academic course would be advantageous.

Departmental Secretary/ Administrator

Ref: P0432

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200

The candidate will be based at our Maidstone site and will be able to demonstrate recent, all round experience and knowledge of administration procedures and have excellent organisational and IT skills. Due to the nature of the role the successful candidate will be required to work independently.

Technician in Beauty

Ref: P0133

Salary: £11,599 - £17,200

We are looking to appoint a highly motivated individual to provide support to learners and assist the Lecturers in running the various Clinics. You will be able to demonstrate good organisational and communication skills and relevant experience within the beauty industry would be advantageous.

Closing date: Friday, 5 December 2008

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBL Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBL, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBL on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbl.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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PASTORAL SUPPORT ASSISTANT
We require a full time Pastoral Support Assistant who would be prepared to act as a Cover Supervisor for 37 hours per week, term time only to start in January 2009. Salary will be according to age and experience and will be paid at Medway Grade D2 - Salary range £14,782 - £18,799 *pro rata*.
The school is expanding its team of support staff in order to enhance our pastoral structure and allow teachers to be at the forefront of learning. Do you relate well to young people? Could you support students at times when they meet barriers to their learning? Would you be able to liaise with parents, teachers and other professionals in support of individuals? Would you be interested in developing your skills with classes of young people?
If so, please contact Mrs J Harrison for an application form and job specification on 01634 844008.
Any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.
Closing date for applications - Friday, 12th December 2008

Due to the opening of our new nursery on the Euxine Business Park, Ashford we have the following vacancies:
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Stephen Katz, Joint Liquidator

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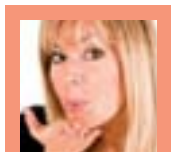
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SINGLE DAD WANTED

Single mum, 23, nice and curvy, 5ft6, blonde, blue eyes, likes shopping, cinema and animals, WLM an honest and trustworthy male, 28-38. Box 446099

I LOVE FOOTBALL

Fun to be with blonde female, 25, 5ft2, loves football(!), going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man to be my soulmate. Box 446494

MAYBE MORE

Seeking fun, friendship, maybe more. WLM fun man 25-30. I'm female, 26, brown hair/blue eyes and of average build. Box 445522

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Lively female, 25, 5ft2, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555

HOLD MY HAND

Single mum, 28, looking for LTR. I enjoy cosy nights in, dancing, dinner out, I'm 5ft1, short hair, blue eyes. Box 445363

SNUGGLE UP

Tall, attractive, good hearted African female, 29y old, enjoys films, good food and cuddles, WLM a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654

CUDDLY FEMALE

32, 5ft9, brown hair, curly figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh, and WLM nice, kind gent. Box 439402

ATTENTION! TALL WHITE GUY REQUIRED

Pretty black female, 32, tall, loves watching football, shopping, travel, seeking tall, white, loving male, 34-47, for LTR. Chalfont. Box 437778

CHANGE OF SCENERY

31y old bubbly, fun-loving female, like reading, cinema, looking for tall, dark and handsome male, GSOH, for happy times. Brighton Box 438557

NO TIMEWASTERS!

Easilygoing female, 32, enjoys shopping, football, eating out, cosy night in, WLM loving, caring white male 35-47 for long term loving relationship. Box 442414

TAKE ME OUT

Single Mum, 32, cuddly larger lady, 5ft8, dark brown hair, seeking someone to have fun, a dance, some drinks, meals and more with. Box 438941

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CANTERBURY TALE

Single mum of 2, 32, WLM someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in and cinema. Ryan from Whitstable, please call again, leave contact details! Box 408670

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a loving relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308724

SEIZE THE DAY

Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 308553

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR LOVE

37y old female, 2 kids, slim, brown hair and eyes, 5ft2, looking for a caring, for a loving relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 446543

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium-large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

THE HOME LIFE

Happy, caring female, homely, tactile and honest, I'm black African, 41, 5ft2, medium build, would like LTR with the right person. Box 446024

BORN TO MAKE YOU HAPPY

Caring lovely lady, 42, genuine, short brown hair, lacks confidence! seeking loyal, genuine person, someone special to put the spark back into my life. Box 885761

FAIRY TALE ENDING

Good-looking slim blonde, 42, tired of kissing frogs, seeking an intelligent, solvent professional male to be my prince. Box 446521

YOU NEVER KNOW

Kind, loving, caring mum, 43, 5ft8, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? Box 446457

HERE WE ARE

Easilygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672

IT'S WHAT YOU MAKE OF IT!

44y old female, blonde hair, 5ft5, slim, easilygoing, enjoy many things in life, looking for someone similar out there to enjoy life with! Box 346810

SPONTANEOUS

Karen, 46, 5ft3, medium build, likes keeping fit, getting out and about, travelling and a bottle of wine. WLM light-hearted male for a LTR. Box 445475

EVERLASTING LOVE

Beautiful black female, 46, WLM a caring, gentle and loving gentleman, 45-50, 5ft10+, pref a bit sporty, for a everlasting relationship. Tunbridge Wells Box 445407

WELL SEE

Blonde hair/blue eyes, 5ft5, slim, looking for friendship, maybe more. I'm a nice woman, 47, seeking good male, for friendship, possibly more. Box 445932

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?

Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love/LTR. Box 444366

HAPPY GO LUCKY

Sincere, happy woman, with GSOH, I'm 5ft6, with short brown hair, brown eyes, I have lots of interests and WLM similar guy. Box 895019

ALL THAT I NEED

Young-looking, slim, attractive female, 48, fun-loving, outgoing, N/S, GSOH, love music, holidays, going out, staying in, seeks similar 42-50. Aylesford. Box 428833

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, beach, travel, seeks friendly chappy, 46-55, Box 471100

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easilygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLM genuine, nice, where life takes us! Box 893562

DIG DEEPER

Genuine, friendly female, 49, likes walks, gardening, nights in, seeking genuine, friendly male, 45-55. Dover Box 435441

NOTHING VENTURED...

New to this, I'm a 53y old woman, seeking loving, tactile man. I enjoy walks, countryside, having fun, nights in and out. Box 445282

SEEING THROUGH THE SHYNESS

Attractive female, 53, intelligent, kind, funny, non-smoking, WLM nice, kind, normal male, 50-60, for theatre, laughs and more. Box 446383

INTERESTED? GIVE ME A CALL

Homely traditional lady, 44, 5ft8, slim-medium build, non smoker, love life, animals, my dog!, walks along the harbour, country pubs, WLM similar gent for romance... Box 446277

DEAL OR NO DEAL? (IN DEAL)

Deal-based lady, 43, divorced, brunette, green eyes, 5ft10, likes going out, pubs, clubs, cinema, shopping, walks, loves films and all sports except cricket. Box 430384

COULD IT BE YOU?

I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

HERE WE ARE

Easilygoing female, 45, self-employed hairdresser, likes theatre, restaurants, socialising, sofa cuddles, seeking loyal, loving, caring male for good times and more. Box 444672

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REPLY to an ad, call:

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REPLY by Text

You can choose to text the member's 6-digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to 82250 e.g. 654321 My name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

Hi, I'm Teresa, 33y young, like animals, gardening and ordinary things! WLM a nice man, my age or younger, for a possible relationship. Box 445707

COMPANIONSHIP, LAUGHTER, MORE

Curvy & cuddly, outgoing, friendly, honest female, 53, 5ft7, larger build, fair hair, likes socialising, country walks, theatre, cinema, music, swimming. WLM similar loving male. Box 443642

SOPHISTICATED SUE

Sue, 56y old, 5ft4, green eyes, petite, loves cooking, holidays, reading and swimming. WLM a tall professional male, similar age, for friendship and romance. Box 443309

FANCY A RIDE?

Affectionate tactile bubbly woman, young 56, 5'7", blonde, curvy, looking for lasting relationship with 50-58 year old loving man. Box 889800

MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS

Hi there, kind-hearted 57y old sincere lady, non-smoker, recently separated, seeking kind, honest gent for friendship first and to make me laugh. Box 440637

HAND IN HAND, HEART TO HEART

Open-minded lady, 58, seeking male 56-63, 1 eye working, eating out, gardening, foreign holidays and more. Box 446468

QUICK, easy way to view a member's photo!

Just enter the six-digit Box number, followed by a space, then PHOTO and send to 82250

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Add a photo of yourself Register your number with us & send by SMS to 07746 738 788. Enter P2P as subject.

MMS - standard network charges apply.

HELP! Positive, vivacious female, 59, 5ft4, enjoys art, seaside walks, music, seeks tallish, kind, caring male to grow old with...disgraceful! Box 444943

IS THERE SOMEONE OUT THERE? Lonely lady, 62, 5ft3, medium build, brown hair/eyes, likes dancing, walks, animal, seeks caring, considerate, outgoing male for friendship leading to LTR. Box 446382

THE GOLDEN YEARS Blonde female 62y old, divorced, slim, enjoys walks and trips to the seaside, WLM a male, 59-64, for a loving companionship. Kent area only please. Box 442443

A GENUINE GENTLEMAN SOUGHT Fun-loving active widow, 69, 5ft2, medium build, likes walking, gardening, music, animals, cosy nights in, the odd dance seeking genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Rochester. Box 884953

Women seeking women FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE Curvy bi female, 32, seeks like-minded woman, for friendship, hopefully more. Single mum, work part time. Box 886142

ATTRACTIVE, BUBBLY LADY 52yrs, 5ft6, blonde, size 12 enjoys good food/wine, theatre, countryside, holidays, seeking a sincere, genuine female, for friendship first, possibly relationship Box 411413

LOVELY JO Young-looking attractive female, 54, N/S, friendly and sociable, love music, dance and history, warm and sparky, WLM a genuine female for a close female friendship. Box 445146

MEN seeking women

HE'S LOVE LEE!

Lee, 25, 5'11", green eyes/brown hair, looking for someone good-natured. Personality more important than looks. Box 813752

HOW CAN YOU RESIST?

Down-to-earth lovable guy, 30, 5ft8, stocky, blonde hair/blue eyes, likes the finer things in life, going out, eating in, pubs. WLM genuine girl for LTR. Box 441945

CRAZY FOR YOU

Sue, athletic, red haired man, 32, 5ft10, green eyes, looking for a serious relationship with a bubbly female who loves fun and knows how to party. Box 884973

DREAMS COME TRUE

33y old fun-loving lad, WLM someone beautiful and intelligent to sweep me off my feet and live with. Box 444369

TAKING IT EASY

Outgoing, confident guy, 39, 6ft, tall, athletic build, brown eyes, shaved head, loves going out/staying in and music, laid-back attitude seeking like-minded lady. Box 511143

DESTINED TO MEET U

Down-to-earth, caring, loving male, 31, 6'4", dark hair/eyes, likes sports, cinema, meals out, looking for fun, easilygoing female, 20-45, for lasting love. Box 370046

WORKING OVERTIME

Self-employed male, 37, 6ft1, short brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, enjoy the gym, pubs, clubs, restaurants, WLM female for long term relationship. Box 443065

NON-SMOKING

Separated male, 36, 6ft, good looks and S&P, kind, caring and sensual, into films and fitness. Seeking a cute to share life and love with. Box 445729

EVERYTHING I DO

Lee, driver, 39y old, 6ft3, dark hair, like pubs, clubs, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, WLM a woman for friendship and romance. Box 889720

SAILING THE SEVEN SEAS

Young-looking male, 38, 5ft9, dark hair, blue eyes, good-looking, no lies, a carpenter, likes the outdoors, seeks lady to sail off and find love with. Box 444937

R U A ME?

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917

ME AND YOU

Hi I'm Shawn, 39, likes most things in life, looking for a woman to settle down with. Box 446085

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR

Outgoing young-minded male, 47, a smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, P&O, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Box 443750

PUT THAT SPARK BACK IN MY LIFE

Virgo male, 40, 5ft7, stocky, kind, loving, likes cinema, meals out, walks on beach, WLM like-minded person to be my girl. Box 446211

ACCOMPANY ME

Torbridge guy, 42, 5ft6, brown hair/green eyes, I'm honest and loyal and I'm looking for the same in a woman. Box 445200

MINDS HIS OWN BUSINESS!

Attractive guy, nice to be with, laid-back, I'm 41, 5ft8, medium/stouty, brown hair, Own business/home, enjoys walks, pubs, wine, restaurants, cinema. Box 432286

ASHFORD MAN

Attractive guy, nice to be with, laid back, I'm 41, 5ft8, medium/stouty, brown hair, Own business and home, enjoys walks, pubs, wine, restaurants and on the PeoplePeople™ internet site. Box 437225

SILVER SERVICE!

Caring, understanding, not bad-looking, romantic male, 42, grey-silver hair, stocky, enjoys cooking, quiet nights in, seeks female, for romance, possible more. Box 157789

BROWSE and listen line:

0906 753 3093

(Calls cost 75p/min; contact your service provider for details)

HELP required with service?

0871 220 9205

Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm, Mon to Fri | Email: louise@8wave.co.uk (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

FUN AND CUDDLY

42y old male, 5ft7, blue eyes, enjoys cinema, walking, swimming and cosy nights in, seeking a dameel to rescue and be happy with. East Sussex Box 894544

LOVE ME DO

Caring and loving male, 43, average looks, self-employed, enjoys wild life, sci-fi and gardening, WLM a petite female, 30-50, for a LTR. Box 444063

DON'T FORGET THIS ONE!

Hi, I'm Steve, 40s, 6ft2, muscular build, likes pubs/clubs and sport, WLM a female, 40-46, for an everlasting relationship. Box 445541

SOULMATE SOUGHT

Devoted dad, 43, blonde hair, blue eyes, 6ft1, likes travelling, spiritualism, means living, seeking female with GSOH for fun times and hopefully something else. Box 446477

DAD'S THE WORD

Lonely single male, 44, 6ft2, fair hair, great SOH, quite happy but looking for a lady 30-50 to have fun with and hopefully something else. Box 446452

A NICE GUY

Hi, I'm Jim, 6ft, 54, interests include listening out, cinema and swimming, WLM a lady with similar interests and GSOH. Box 445650

DOWN TO MARGARET!

Young-looking, slim male, 43y old, 5ft10, enjoys beach walks and cinema, WLM a mature lady for a

Picture BOB HAYTON



REPRIEVE: Maidstone (red and white) will not be relegated even if they finish bottom this season

Maidstone to avoid the drop

RUGBY

MAIDSTONE RFC will escape relegation even if their winless season continues after the Rugby Football Union (RFU) approved plans to restructure club rugby from next season.

The side have endured a dreadful campaign so far and are rock bottom of London 2 South after losing all nine games. But in measures approved by the RFU earlier this month, no side will be relegated from the division this season.

The game's governing body is slimming down the second tier from 16 to 12 teams to encourage professionalism. All the divisions below are affected as they increase in size to absorb the extra teams,

with Maidstone's division increasing from 12 to 14 clubs.

Trevor Langley, club president, acknowledged it gave the squad a stay of execution but felt the lasting implications of a larger division were even more important.

He said: "Obviously it will be a benefit in the short term that we won't be relegated. It gives us more time to get the playing side in order, otherwise we would be likely to be relegated."

"I think looking at the long term we believe it is advantageous because there won't be the gaps in

the fixture programme. The two extra home games will generate another few thousand pounds, which is a significant amount for clubs at our level."

The changes will mean a guaranteed 26 league games per season, four more than the club will play this season.

After a break for cup fixtures last weekend, Maidstone resume their bid for their first win of the season on Saturday with a local derby against Dover. Kick-off at The Mote is at 2.15pm.

The club's second team, the Mustangs, will hope to continue their successful season when they visit Gravesend 2nd XV.

Hard work fails to pay off for ladies

MAIDSTONE ladies hockey 1st XI are still searching for their second victory of the season after losing to Sevenoaks 3-2.

Sevenoaks opened the scoring on 26 minutes, but their lead lasted just six minutes as Maidstone equalised through Cara Brogan.

Maidstone fell behind for a second time from a penalty corner. However, they kept pushing forward and Kathryn Waldrom levelled the game with a clinical finish.

Despite their endeavour, Maidstone were beaten by Davina Ablett's penalty corner late on.

Maidstone have a trip to face league leaders Reading who are unbeaten after seven games so far this season.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Watch Kent's Joe Denly and Rob Key in the nets ahead of their trip to India

Bears fight back to win seesaw battle

BEARSTED moved up to fifth in the Kent County League Premier Division after coming through a seven-goal thriller at Milton & Fulston United.

Russell McLeish gave Bearsted the lead on 15 minutes and they doubled their lead shortly after with Rickie Stevens finding the net from the edge of the area.

Bearsted had a three-goal lead at the break as Ollie Scrivener turned in Steve Smith's free-kick.

However, Milton fought back and scored twice shortly after the restart. With Bearsted under pressure, Milton equalised on the hour but Scrivener scored the winner ten minutes from time.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT
glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



IN THE NICK OF TIME: Maidstone left it until the last minute to wrap up the three points against Ashford after a nervous finish at Bourne Park on Saturday



Picture STEVE TERRELL

Last-gasp winner gets Stones rolling again

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

Maidstone United 2

Blackman 83 Pinnock 90

Ashford Town (Middx) 1

Harris 26

net. Guy Hollis found Scott Harris who made no mistake and slotted the ball past Andy Walker.

The goalkeeper was called upon once again on 39 minutes to deny the lively Harris from extending Ashford's lead.

Maidstone looked more threatening in the second half and introduction of substitute Blackman made all the difference. He made an immediate impact as held up the ball for Pinnock who fired narrowly wide from long range.

With seven minutes remaining, Blackman proved his worth with a stunning equaliser.

Maidstone starting XI



Subs used: Blackman (Selley 65)

Nugent played the ball to the striker and he let fly from 25 yards and saw the ball nestle into the top corner of the net.

Ashford pushed forward once again to try and win the game and Walker kept Maidstone in the game on 89 minutes with a fine save from Warren Harris.

Deep into injury-time, Maidstone found a winning goal with the last kick of the game. Nugent found the onrushing Pinnock, who drilled the ball into the net for his tenth goal of the season. The win means United are sixth in the Ryman Premier League.

Dubai the limit for Bulls ladies sevens

RUGBY

BY YOURMAIDSTONE REPORTER

AYLESFORD Bulls ladies are to test themselves against some of the world's best players in the IRB Dubai Sevens tournament this week.

The side coached by Andy Dawling and Michelle Mayhew took part in the competition last year shocking other teams by making the quarter-finals.

Bulls will begin the tournament on Thursday against a side called Wooden Spoons, followed by playing against the Sporting Chance side which is comprised of England squad members.

Dawling and Mayhew have been coaching the ladies, who play in London South East 2, for the last ten weeks in preparation for the tournament, as they hope to eclipse their performance last year.

Mayhew said: "We have been handed a tough draw, but we will go there believing we can reach further than we did last year. It will be very hard and on paper we will be playing better sides. The experience will be great for the players. They will get to test themselves against the best and play in an amazing arena."

The top two teams from each pool meet in the quarter-finals, with the winners progressing to the Trophy semi-finals and the losers go into the last four of the Plate competition.

If the Bulls navigate their way through the group they could come up against teams from Ireland, Canada, Kenya and Russia,



Picture: MARTIN WATSON

WORLD'S BEST: Aylesford Bulls ladies are dreaming of eclipsing last year's quarter-final place at the Dubai Sevens tournament

who will be using the tournament as practice for the women's world cup next March.

Team manager Mayhew believes the tournament in Dubai is an opportunity for the code to grow in the women's game.

She said: "The fact that at Aylesford we play sevens, is one of the reasons why we have attracted so many players to the club.

The support for the code is expanding and events like this will certainly help the sport."

This Saturday, Aylesford Bulls men's side will be back in action against Lordswood who have just two victories so far this season.

A win for the Bulls could move them up to third place in London South East 3.

FOOTBALL



NEW GROUND: Maidstone's chairman is urging supporters to unite in an effort to bring the club home

Stones chief calls on fans to stand up for their club

MAIDSTONE United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown has issued a rallying cry to Stones supporters to help the club come back home.

The Ryman Premier League side are set to table a bid for a Stadium Improvement Grant, which could see the club net up to £150,000.

This is the next step for the Stones after a £1.2 million bid to the Football Foundation was turned down last month.

The club has been absent from the county town since 1988 and the chairman, who intends to bring the Stones home to a ground built on James Whatman Way in Maidstone, is hoping fans will dig deep to help the club.

Bowden-Brown said: "This is the time for supporters to stand up and be counted. We will be holding a number of fund-raising events for supporters to contribute specifically to the stadium fund and not the club.

"I know times are tough at the moment, but if they want the club to come back home we will need them to roll up their sleeves and help.

"We have been ground-sharing in Sittingbourne for far too long and if this club is to continue we need to come back home."

The club have been working hard on the bid, which has seen the original stadium plans scaled down following the failed Football Foundation bid.

The plan is to build the ground to Ryman and Blue Square South league requirements and it will have a grass pitch instead of the originally proposed 3G artificial surface.

Bowden-Brown intends to finalise the bid and have it ready for next month.

He added: "We have been working on the bid last week, making sure we have everything in place.

"We have got the plans for the stadium down and ready to present and we hope we will receive up to £150,000 from the stadium grant."

• For information on how to get involved with helping bring the Stones home, log on to www.bringingfootballhome.co.uk.

LEAGUE TABLES

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Dover Athletic	16	14	0	2	+21	42
2 Carshalton Athletic	18	10	4	4	+6	34
3 Staines Town	16	10	3	3	+13	33
4 Tonbridge Angels	18	9	5	4	+14	32
5 Canvey Island	19	9	5	5	+12	32
6 Maidstone United	17	9	2	6	+7	29
7 Ashford Town (Mdx)	16	9	0	7	+7	27
8 Tooting & M'cham U	18	8	2	8	+0	26
9 Wealdstone	19	7	4	8	+2	25
10 Horsham	16	7	2	7	-2	23
11 Sutton United	15	6	5	4	-2	23
12 AFC Hornchurch	16	6	4	6	+0	22
13 Boreham Wood	17	6	4	7	-4	22
14 Billericay Town	16	6	4	6	-7	22
15 Harlow Town	14	6	3	5	+7	21
16 Hastings United	18	7	0	11	-9	21
17 Dartford	17	5	3	9	-6	18
18 Margate	19	5	3	11	-12	18
19 Harrow Borough	17	3	6	8	-19	15
20 Hendon	16	4	2	10	-2	14
21 Ramsgate	18	2	7	9	-16	13
22 Heybridge Swifts	16	1	6	9	-10	9

FIXTURES

Saturday, November 29

Billericay Town v Maidstone United



Picture: ADY KERRY

UNCERTAIN FUTURE: Scott Smart is in talks with two teams as he looks to secure a deal for the 2009 season

Team talks a smart move for Scott

SUPERBIKES

SUPERBIKE rider Scott Smart is hoping to have a ride secured for the 2009 season by the end of the month.

The 33-year-old from Maidstone, who raced for Hawk Kawasaki in the British Superbike Championship last season, has revealed he has spoken to two teams in the series about a deal for the next campaign.

Smart had a difficult year on the Kawasaki bike, finishing 13th in the final rider standings, with a season's best finish of eighth.

Last week speculation increased about Smart's future for next season as Hawk Kawasaki, which Smart has been part of for the last two years, unveiled Tristan Palmer as their new rider.

Smart said: "I am still not sure what I will be doing for next season. I have been a little bit left in the dark about the situation as I have been out of the country racing.

"I have not heard from Hawk Kawasaki recently. Before I left for Qatar I had been talking to a couple of British Superbike teams but nothing is signed yet. I hope to have something agreed in the next few weeks."

Earlier this month, Smart took part in the final round of the World Endurance Championship in Qatar.

Racing for British team Phase One Endurance alongside Glen Richards and Australian Damian Cudlin, the trio finished 16th and completed 198 laps of the Doha circuit.

Smart returns to Great Britain later this month to secure a ride for the new season.

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What sets the **Carpet and Rug Outlet Store** aside from the competition is the sheer variety in both the stock and the services they offer. Providing a fitting and delivery service and free estimates across Maidstone and the surrounding areas, you're spoilt for choice with the 50/60 rolls of carpet in store and extensive range of samples.

The store is host to the pleasant backdrop displaying many Oriental, Indian, Afghan and many more rugs, and prices range between £5 and £3,000, a testimony to the vast selection you'll find in their shop. Should you not find what you need, an in-store catalogue is available to order from in the size required. Custom rugs can be made to fit to whatever size or shape you're after through a wide range of whipping and binding services.

Conveniently situated in the Mall, Chequers Centre, next to Boots, level 3 – the store boasts many specialist features such as made to measure Nanking and Lena rugs on request, rugs for children, 3-piece clearance suites in store, and most impressively, the large assortment of Chinese super wash rugs, which are 100% wool and beautifully embossed. With such choice available, the **Carpet and Rug Outlet Store** has everything covered.